

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2023





Director's Message

Dear Residents and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to introduce the Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, an initiative aimed at enhancing accessibility and connectivity within our vibrant and diverse communities in southwest Missouri. As the Executive Director of the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG), I am excited to share with you the vision and strategies that will guide us toward a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable transportation network.

Transportation lies at the heart of thriving communities. It bridges gaps, empowers individuals, and fosters economic growth. For many of our fellow residents, especially those with limited access to personal vehicles due to age, disability, or low income, public transit serves as a vital lifeline. It connects them to essential services, jobs, education, healthcare, and social opportunities. Yet, providing cost-effective and efficient transit options can be particularly challenging for smaller communities.

In recognizing these challenges, our plan champions the immense potential of regional cooperation. Through a collaborative approach, we can address the unique needs of our various counties while maximizing the impact of limited resources. This plan emphasizes the value of reducing one-way trips, consolidating passenger destinations, and sharing resources to optimize transit systems. By working together, we can create financially viable and sustainable solutions that enhance the lives of all residents across the region.

This transit plan is not solely about fulfilling federal requirements; it is about creating a transportation network that reflects our commitment to inclusivity and resilience. By identifying and addressing service gaps, we ensure that vulnerable populations are not left behind. This plan prioritizes strategies that cater to the diverse needs of our communities, fostering equity and social cohesion. As we strengthen our transportation network, we simultaneously lay the foundation for regional growth and prosperity.

Looking ahead, the successful implementation of this transit plan will play a pivotal role in connecting our communities, improving lives, and cultivating a vibrant region for everyone. Our goal is to nurture an environment where individuals have the freedom to pursue opportunities and where the barriers of distance are minimized.

I invite each of you to engage with us as we embark on this transformative journey. Your insights, feedback, and support are integral to the realization of our vision. Together, we can foster a resilient and inclusive transportation network that not only meets the immediate needs of our residents but also paves the way for a brighter and more sustainable future.

Thank you for your dedication to our region, and I look forward to our collective achievements.

Sincerely,



Jason Ray, AICP
Executive Director
SMCOG

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Executive Summary

Federal transportation program reauthorizations SAFTEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act), MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act), FAST Act (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act) and the BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) require that federally funded mobility projects be included in a locally developed, Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. The plan must be developed and approved through a process that includes seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes and is coordinated to the maximum extent possible with transportation services assisted by other federal departments and agencies.

A Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan identifies the transportation needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes, provides strategies for meeting those local needs and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Local plans may be developed on a local, regional, or statewide level. The decision as to the boundaries of the local planning areas should be made in consultation with the state, designated recipient of FTA programs, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization, where applicable.

Federal Transit Administration requires that projects selected for funding under the Enhanced Mobility for Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) Program be "included in a locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan," and that the plan be "developed and approved through a process that included participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public" utilizing transportation services.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) has developed a comprehensive transit plan aimed at improving transportation coordination and cooperation in the region. This plan covers Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties, with the primary goal of addressing service gaps and preparing for future transportation needs.

The development of this plan involved engaging representatives from local government, transportation and human service providers, public, private, and non-profit sectors, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people with low incomes, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach. To address transportation needs effectively in the SMCOG region, the plan focused on the following key elements recommended by the Federal Transit Administration:

Identifying Existing Transportation Providers: The plan conducted a thorough inventory of available transit services in the region, involving 26 human service agencies, 4 transportation providers, and over 50 users. This assessment served as a foundation for understanding the current transit landscape and identifying potential areas for improvement.

Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations: Special attention was given to the transportation needs of older adults, individuals with low income, and people with disabilities. The plan aims to create targeted strategies that ensure equitable access to transportation services.

Strategies to Bridge Service Gaps: The plan identifies and addresses existing gaps in transit services within the region. By recognizing where services may be lacking, the transit plan provides strategies to enhance connectivity and accessibility for all residents, even in rural and underserved areas.

Prioritization and Feasibility: Recognizing the constraints of available resources and time, the plan prioritizes the implementation of strategies. By focusing on feasibility and maximizing efficiency, the transit plan ensures the most impactful and sustainable improvements to the region's transportation infrastructure.

Public transit is a lifeline for numerous communities in the area, particularly for individuals with limited access to personal vehicles due to age, disability, or low income. However, providing cost-effective transit options can be challenging for smaller communities. This plan highlights the potential of regional cooperation in mitigating such issues. By reducing one-way trips, consolidating passenger destinations, and sharing resources, communities can optimize their transit systems, making them more financially viable and sustainable.

By addressing service gaps and prioritizing strategies that cater for the needs of vulnerable populations, this transit plan not only complies with federal requirements but also creates a resilient and inclusive transportation network that fosters regional growth and prosperity. As we look towards the future, the successful implementation of this transit plan will play a pivotal role in connecting communities, improving lives, and ensuring a more vibrant and sustainable region for all residents.

Introduction

Throughout the Ozarks, public transit is a vital necessity for many communities. Individuals with limited access to personal vehicles - which could come as a result of complications arising from age, disability, or low income - are especially dependent on this resource. If public transportation options are not available, many residents may find themselves unable to fulfill basic needs, such as going to the grocery store, a doctor's appointment, or work.

Public transit can be an expensive utility to provide, especially for smaller communities that struggle to maintain the density of ridership needed to sustain routes. Regional cooperation can help mitigate these issues by reducing the number of one-way trips, clustering passengers into fewer destinations, and sharing the use of transportation personnel, equipment, and facilities.

As part of this planning process, a survey was sent to a variety of transit providers in the SMOG region. The survey was used to conduct an inventory of available transit services in the region, as well as identify where gaps and duplication of service may exist. Survey respondents included 26 human service agencies, 4 transportation providers, and 50+ users.

Service Area

In 2022, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to update the Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTCP) for the 10 counties comprising the SMOG transportation planning area. Those include Barry, Greene, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster Counties. SMOG is one of 19 Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) in Missouri responsible for rural transportation planning in the state. Figure 1 shows the location of SMOG's 10-county region in relation to the overall State of Missouri.



Figure 1 SMOG Service Area, with outline of the OTO Service Area

The Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) serves as the appointed Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible for the Springfield region, encompassing parts of Greene and Christian counties. Moreover, the federal government designates OTO as one of the three Transportation Management Areas (TMA) in Missouri. OTO's service area is also shown in Figure 1.

Current Services

The SMOG planning area has a variety of transportation services, catering for the diverse needs of its residents. These services play a crucial role in ensuring efficient and accessible mobility for all. Currently, the following services are available to facilitate seamless transportation within the region:

OATS

OATS serves as the primary transit provider for a significant portion of rural Missouri, covering all ten counties within SMCOG. Operating as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation, OATS offers transportation services across 87 counties in Missouri, catering to the needs of the rural public, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities.

Throughout most of the region, particularly in rural areas, OATS services are open to the public and routes are posted on the OATS website. Trips within the city limits of Springfield, however, are senior exclusive. Sheltered workshop routes operate in a similar manner, not advertised and limited to the designated group.

OATS offers a diverse range of trips, connecting rural areas within SMCOG's ten counties to major cities like Springfield. Most of these trips to Springfield occur monthly, while express trips from Barry, Stone, and Taney County are available twice a month.

OATS plays a crucial role in providing transportation services across these counties, facilitating travel for various purposes such as shopping, visits to senior centers, and doctor appointments, ensuring accessibility and mobility for the communities they serve.



Figure 2 Photograph of an OATS bus

Local Community Transportation Services

In some areas, community or city-based transportation options are available. For instance, in the City of Mt. Vernon, there is a taxi service operated by the Mt. Vernon Transportation Department, catering primarily to seniors and disabled citizens. The fare for this service is \$1.00 per ride each way, with a reduced rate of \$0.50 per ride each way for senior and disabled passengers.

Similarly, the City of Branson offers the Branson trolley, which allows riders to conveniently board or alight at any of its thirteen downtown stops. This service is provided free of charge to both residents and visitors and was made possible through funding from a Community Improvement District (CID).

Private Companies

In the SMCOG region, there are several private transportation options available. These services cater for both larger and smaller communities and are delivered by various providers. The City



Figure 3 Photograph of a Branson trolley

of Branson offers taxi services, as well as shuttle options like the Branson Loop and the popular ride-sharing services, Uber and Lyft.

Furthermore, Greenfield nursing home facilitates transportation for certain residents by providing a van to assist them in reaching medical appointments. In other communities such as Bolivar and Cassville, private taxi services are available. Additionally, Uber and Lyft have extended their services to some of the smaller communities, including Miller.

Senior Centers

Certain senior centers in the area provide transportation services for medical appointments and offer home-delivered meals. For instance, the Marshfield Senior Center offers transportation for medical appointments when other options are not accessible. Additionally, numerous senior centers in the region provide home-delivered meals through Senior Age for adults who are unable to leave their homes.

Sheltered Workshops

Sheltered workshops offer employment opportunities tailored to support individuals with disabilities. Burrell Working Solutions, located in Bolivar, MO, facilitates transportation services for individuals with disabilities to commute to and from work. Numerous other sheltered workshops collaborate with OATS to arrange transportation for their employees.

Funding Overview

Securing robust and sustainable funding is the cornerstone of any successful transportation plan. In this section, a comprehensive overview of the financial framework that underpins the implementation of the plan is presented. As this plan seeks to address the pressing challenges and opportunities facing our region's transportation infrastructure – aiming to create a seamless, efficient, and environmentally responsible network for the benefit of our region – it is essential to recognize that adequate funding not only fuels the execution of our ambitious projects, but also ensures their long-term viability and sustainability. In this section, we delve into the various funding sources that will support the realization of our vision, fostering economic growth, reducing congestion, and enhancing the overall quality of life in our region. Generally, the potential funding sources for this plan can be distilled into six broad spheres, which are as follows: Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310); Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Section 5311); Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA); Areas of Persistent Poverty Program; Bus and Bus Facilities Program; and Innovation Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants. These are further explained in subsequent sections.

Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310)

This program provides funding through a formula program that aids in supporting the needs of older adults and people with disabilities. Funds are apportioned to direct recipients for rural and small urban areas by MoDOT. Traditional Section 5310 projects include buses and vans, wheelchair lifts/ramps, transit-related information technology systems, and acquisition of transportation services. Non-traditional programs include travel training, volunteer driver programs, purchasing vehicles to support accessible taxi services, and more. The federal share of capital costs cannot exceed 80% of total project cost and 50% of operating assistance. The 10% that is eligible to fund program administrative costs may be funded at 100% federal

share. Funds are apportioned among states by a formula based on the number of seniors and people with disabilities in each state.

[Formula Grants for Rural Areas \(Section 5311\)](#)

This program provides capital, planning, and operating assistance to states to support public transportation in rural areas with a population of under 50,000, where many residents rely on public transit to reach their destinations. The program also provides funding for state and national training and technical assistance through the Rural Transportation Assistance Program. Eligible activities include planning, capital, operating, job access and reverse commute projects, and acquisition of public transportation services. The federal funding share is 80% for capital projects and 50% for operating assistance. They will also fund 80% for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) non-fixed route paratransit services. Funds are apportioned to states based on a formula that considers land area, population, revenue vehicle miles, and low-income individuals in rural areas.

[Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(TIFIA\)](#)

This program provides credit assistance for qualified projects of regional or national significance. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, transit agencies, railroad companies, special authorities, special districts, and private entities. These loans have up to 35-year repayment periods, with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allowing up to 75 years for some projects, with repayment being deferrable for five years after substantial project completion. There is no penalty for pre-payment. Through the BIL, transit and transit-oriented development projects can borrow up to 49% of project costs with low interest rates that do not accrue until proceeds are drawn.

[Areas of Persistent Poverty Program](#)

This program awards grants to eligible applicants for planning, engineering, or development of technical or financing plans for projects eligible under Chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, to assist Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities. These projects include transit system improvement, new transit routes, engineering for transit facilities and improvement to existing facilities, planning for a new bus facility or intermodal center that supports transit services, and more. Information on areas designated as Areas of Persistent Poverty and Historically Disadvantaged Communities can be found on the Federal Transit Administration's website, where they provided a mapping tool that allows applicants to determine project eligibility. The minimum federal share for this program is not less than 90%.

[Bus and Bus Facilities Program](#)

This program makes federal resources available to states and direct recipients to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Funding is provided through formula allocations and competitive grants. Capital projects that replace, rehabilitate, and purchase vans, buses, and related facilities, as well as construct bus related facilities, are eligible for federal funds. States, local governmental entities, and private nonprofit organizations that operate fixed route bus services or provide public transportation are also eligible for funds. The federal share for eligible capital costs is 80% of the project cost but can exceed 80% for certain projects related to the ADA and Clean Air Act.

[Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Grants](#)

This program provides funds for innovative capital projects for the transportation-disadvantaged that improve the coordination of non-emergency medical transportation services. There is no minimum or

maximum grant award amount, with FTA funding as many meritorious projects as possible. Projects that are selected may not receive the full requested amount. Eligible applicants include state and local governmental authorities, private nonprofit organizations, and operators of public transportation. The minimum federal share of project costs is 80%, with the local share being at least 20% of the net project cost.

Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust

This program provides funding to individuals, companies, governments, and other entities to fulfill projects aimed at reducing air pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources. Administered and allocated by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, this funding can be directed towards the replacement of existing diesel vehicles with newer, more energy efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives. Such vehicles include school buses, private and publicly owned trucks and emergency vehicles, transit and shuttle buses, as well as locomotives, marine vehicles, and airport and cargo equipment. The program also provides funding for the development and improvement of electric vehicle charging stations. There is no minimum or maximum award amount, but the state is incentivized to utilize the full amount of its allocations, which amounts to over \$41 million between 2017 and 2027.

Planning Process

To update the PTHSTCP, the initial phase involved creating a revised roster of transit and human service providers serving the counties within the SMCOG planning area. To accomplish this, SMCOG staff employed a combination of resources, including a list from past plans and online searches to identify new additions. All relevant agencies were reached through public meeting notifications and surveys. Moreover, email lists were cross-checked and refreshed whenever possible. A full list is available in Appendix F.



Figure 4 An outline of the planning process for the PTHSTCP

Regional Demographics

The Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (PTHSTCP) aims to designate funding to transportation projects that benefit the elderly, disabled, and low-income individuals. The focus groups provide an understanding of the targets for demographic research.

Elderly Persons

In 2021, the ten-county region was home to 115,058 elderly persons, which is a 25% increase from the amount in 2010 (91,895). Stone County (30.7%), Dade County (23.8%), and Taney County (22.0%) have the highest percentage of elderly persons above 65. Additionally, there was a 37.28% increase in the elderly population between the ages of 70 to 74 from 2010 to 2021 across the entire region.

TABLE 1: Elderly Populations in 2021									
County	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	TOTALS	65+	65+ (%)	2010-2021 Percent Change
Barry	2,199	2,142	1,477	771	799		7,388	21.3%	17.8%
Christian	4,728	3,729	2,126	1,779	1,368		13,730	15.6%	45.1%
Dade	635	445	235	244	239		1,798	23.8%	11.2%
Dallas	1,134	882	704	448	282		3,450	20.4%	20.9%
Greene	15,667	12,386	8,993	5,607	5,943		48,596	16.4%	25.9%
Lawrence	2,076	1,662	1,395	746	913		6,792	17.9%	7.8%
Polk	1,577	1,541	1,018	634	746		5,516	17.5%	9.8%
Stone	3,362	2,516	1,460	1,082	1,113		9,533	30.7%	21.1%
Taney	3,548	3,683	2,357	1,314	1,324		12,226	22.0%	33.6%
Webster	2,317	1,259	1,159	810	484		6,029	15.4%	26.9%
Total	37,243	30,245	20,924	13,435	13,211		115,058	20.1%	25.21%

Table 1 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

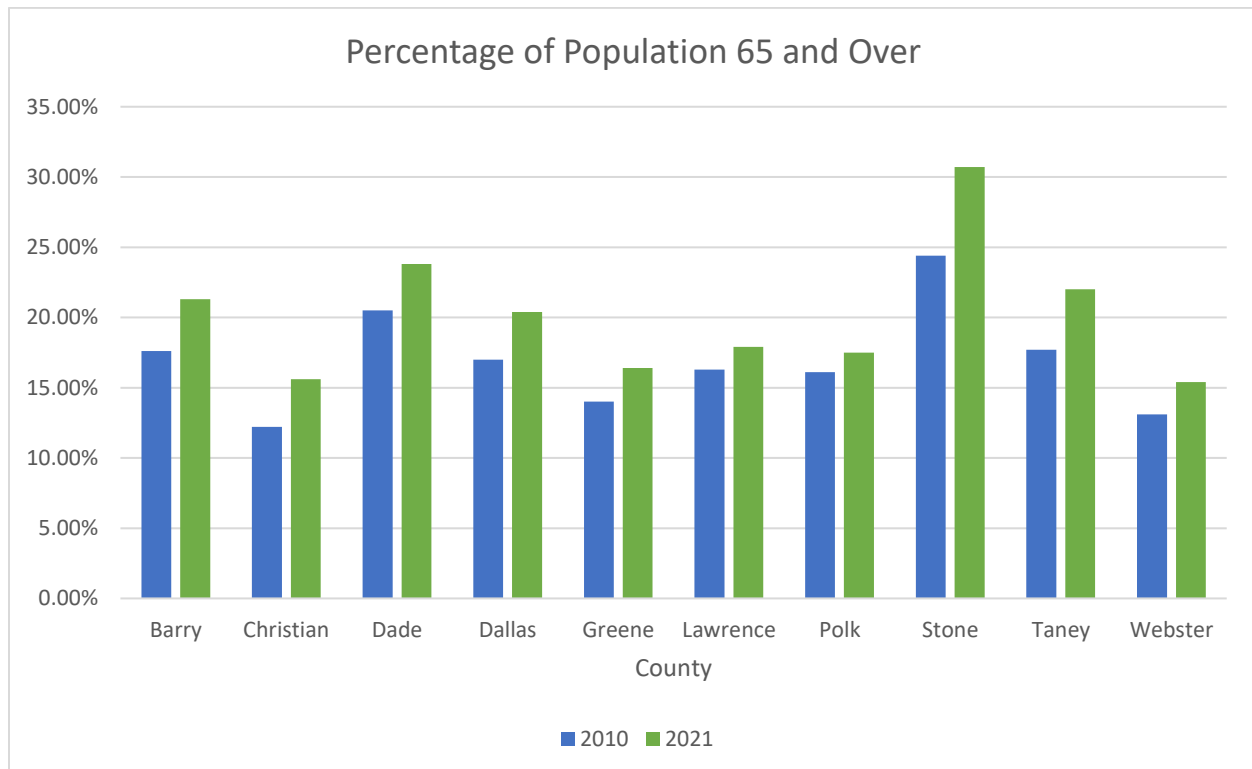


Figure 5 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

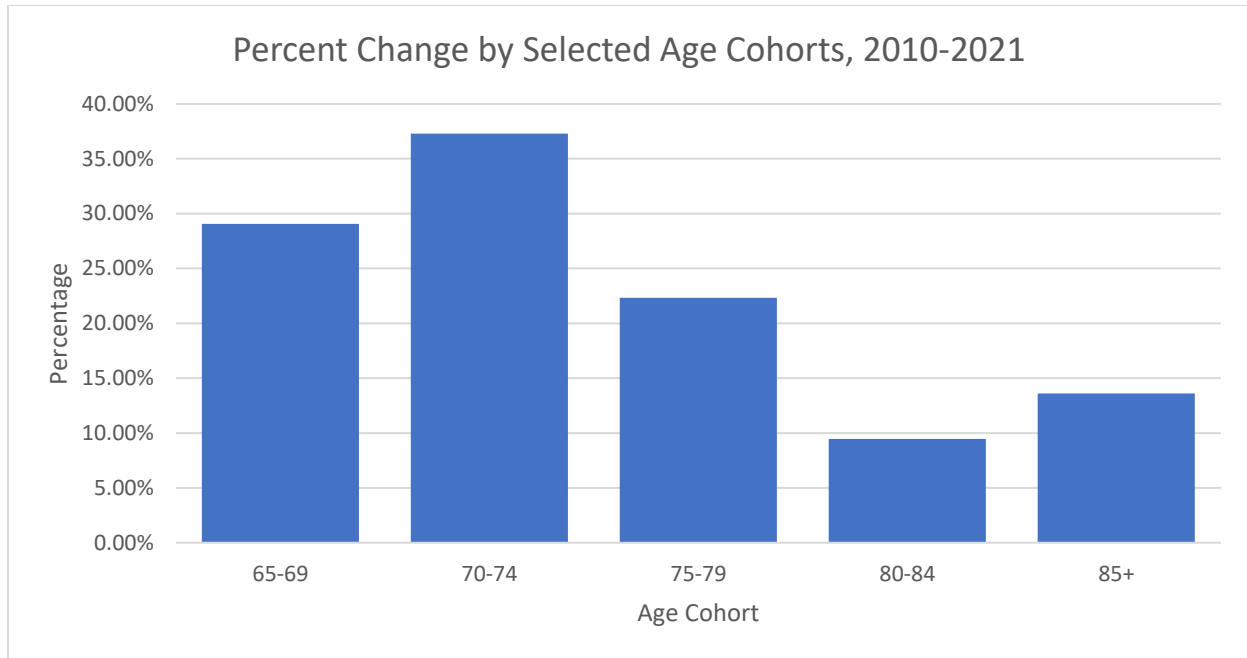


Figure 6 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Persons with Disabilities

According to 2021 ACS 5-year data, 37.37% of residents 65 and over have disabilities or 95,985 residents in the ten-county region. Christian, Greene, Polk, and Webster counties each have total disability compositions near 14% (entire population), which is comparable to the state average of 14.40%. Barry, Dade, and Taney counties have a slightly higher average proportion of total individuals with disabilities, at 15.90%, 16.20%, and 15.80%, respectively. Dallas, Lawrence, and Stone counties have the highest proportion of persons with disabilities, at close to 20%. Ambulatory difficulty was the most common disability with a regional average percentage of 8.80%. The other highly ranking disabilities were independent living difficulty at 6.88%, cognitive difficulty at 6.52%, and hearing difficulty at 5.10%.

TABLE 2: Total Population with Disabilities by Age Cohort					
County	Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	Disabled Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	Disabled Population 18-64 (%)	Disabled Population 65+ (%)	2021 Total Disabled Population (%)
Barry	34,374	5,473	7.4%	35.1%	15.9%
Christian	87,395	11,885	7.3%	36.3%	13.6%
Dade	7,446	1,206	7.5%	35.0%	16.2%
Dallas	16,714	3,503	12.3%	39.0%	21.0%
Greene	293,252	43,134	7.7%	38.7%	14.7%
Lawrence	37,591	6,837	10.4%	41.8%	18.2%
Polk	31,097	4,582	7.2%	38.1%	14.7%
Stone	30,715	5,341	7.5%	34.2%	17.4%

Taney	55,429	8,731	7.2%	37.8%	15.8%
Webster	38,161	5,293	7.2%	37.9%	13.9%
Missouri	6,035,976	866,531	7.4%	37.3%	14.4%
US	324,818,565	41,055,492	6.4%	35.8%	12.6%

Table 2 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

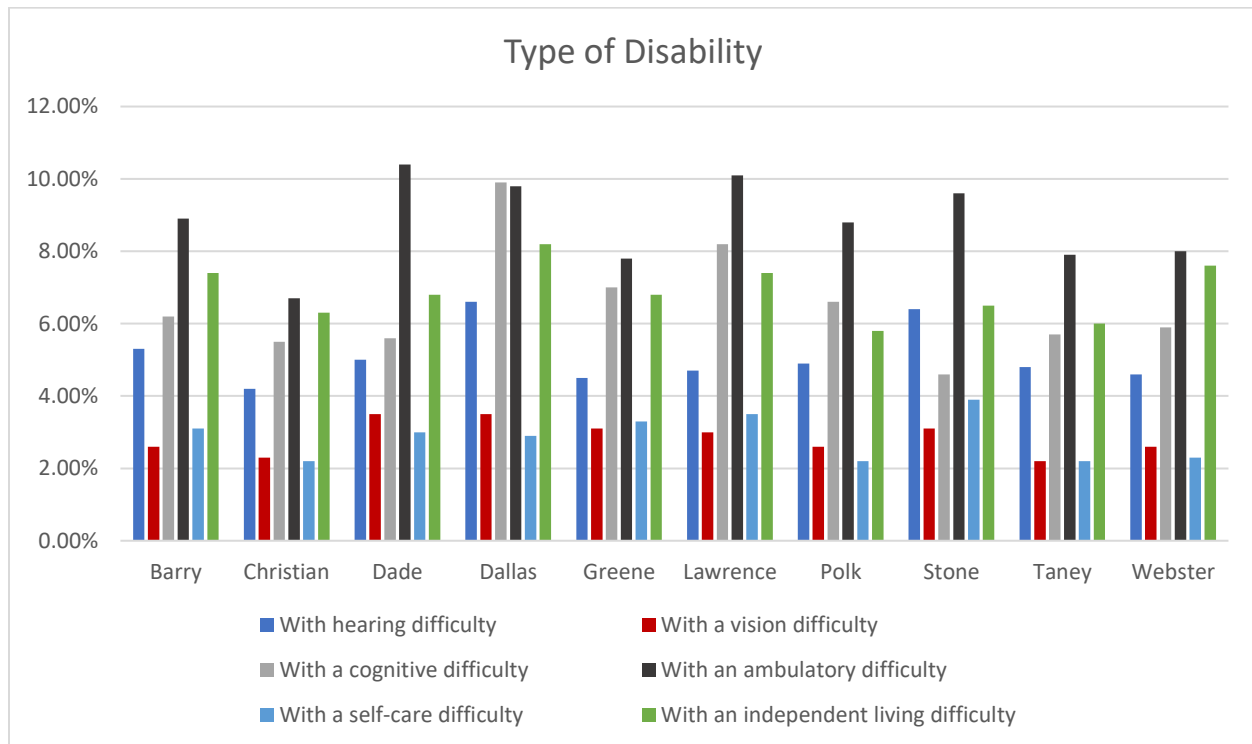


Figure 7 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Low to Moderate Income Persons

Based on 2021 ACS 5-year Estimates, Dallas County had the highest percentage of residents below the 150% poverty line at 21.1%. Eight of the ten SMCOC counties have 9% or more of their population that are both over the age of 65 and below the 150% poverty line. Webster and Lawrence counties had the highest instances of poverty among the elderly population at 10.60% and 10%, respectively. The average median household income in the ten-county region is \$52,056.60, which is 14.7% lower than the state's median household income of \$61,043.00. In the ten-county region, Christian County has the highest median household income of \$69,212, while Dade County has the lowest at \$43,661.

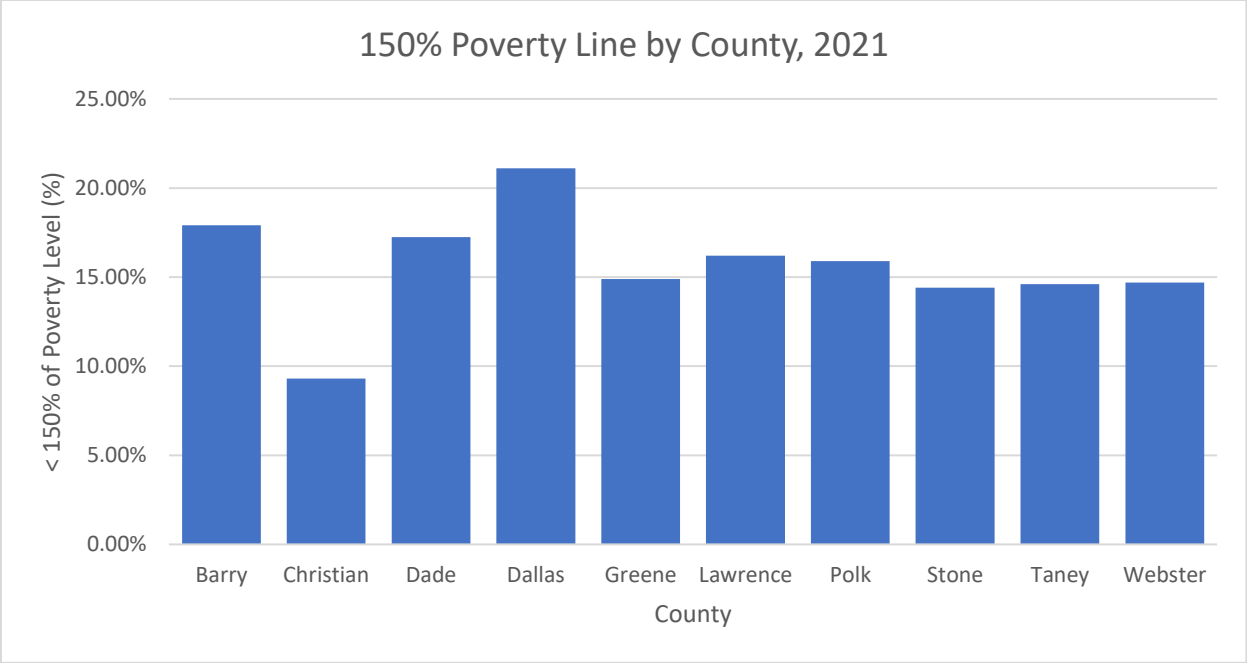


Figure 8 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

TABLE 3: LMI by County			
County	Population Below Poverty	< 150% Poverty Level (%)	65+ and Below Poverty Level (%)
Barry	6,086	17.9%	9.3%
Christian	8,120	9.3%	8.8%
Dade	1,306	17.3%	9.7%
Dallas	3,530	21.1%	8.1%
Greene	42,557	14.9%	9.0%
Lawrence	6,075	16.2%	10.0%
Polk	4,755	15.9%	9.9%
Stone	4,403	14.4%	9.6%
Taney	7,911	14.6%	9.3%
Webster	5,550	14.7%	10.6%

Table 3 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Regional Transportation Trends

According to the ACS 2021 5-year estimates Christian, Dallas, Stone, and Webster Counties have the highest percentage of residents who worked outside of their county of residence. This increases their reliance on different modes of transportation to get to work and home.

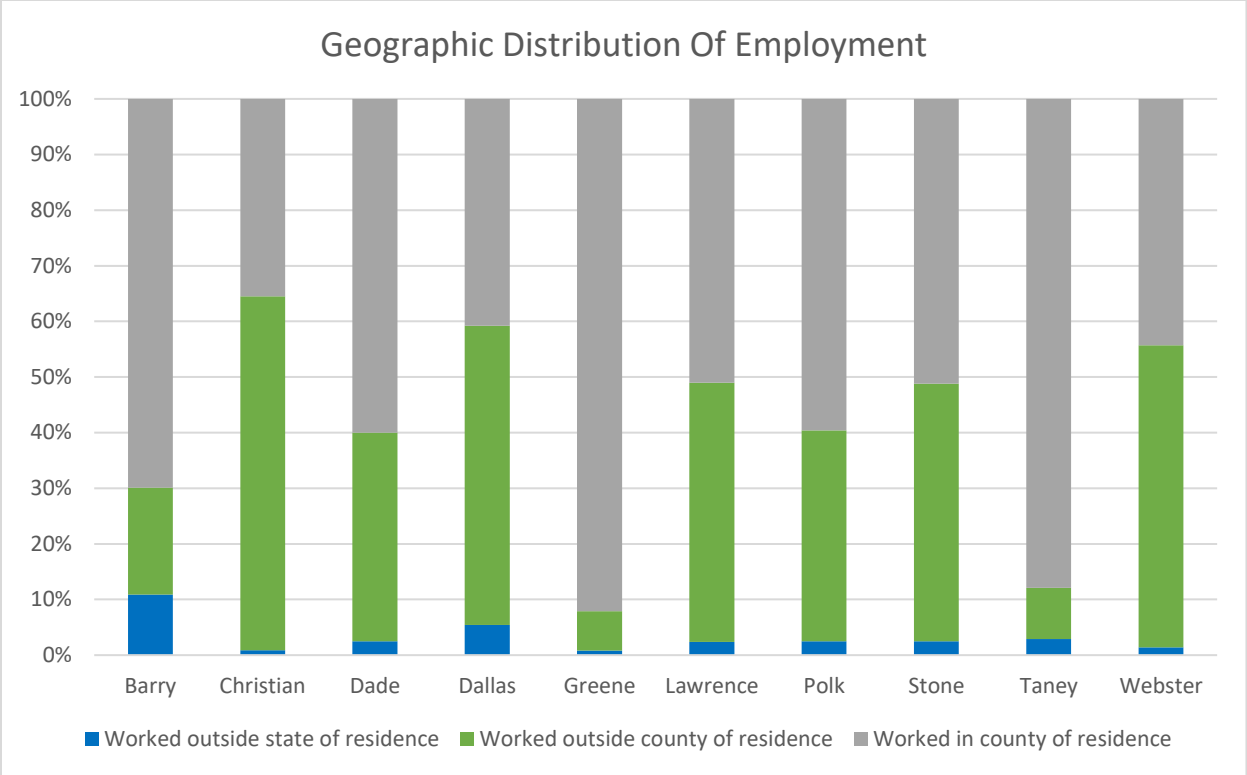


Figure 9 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

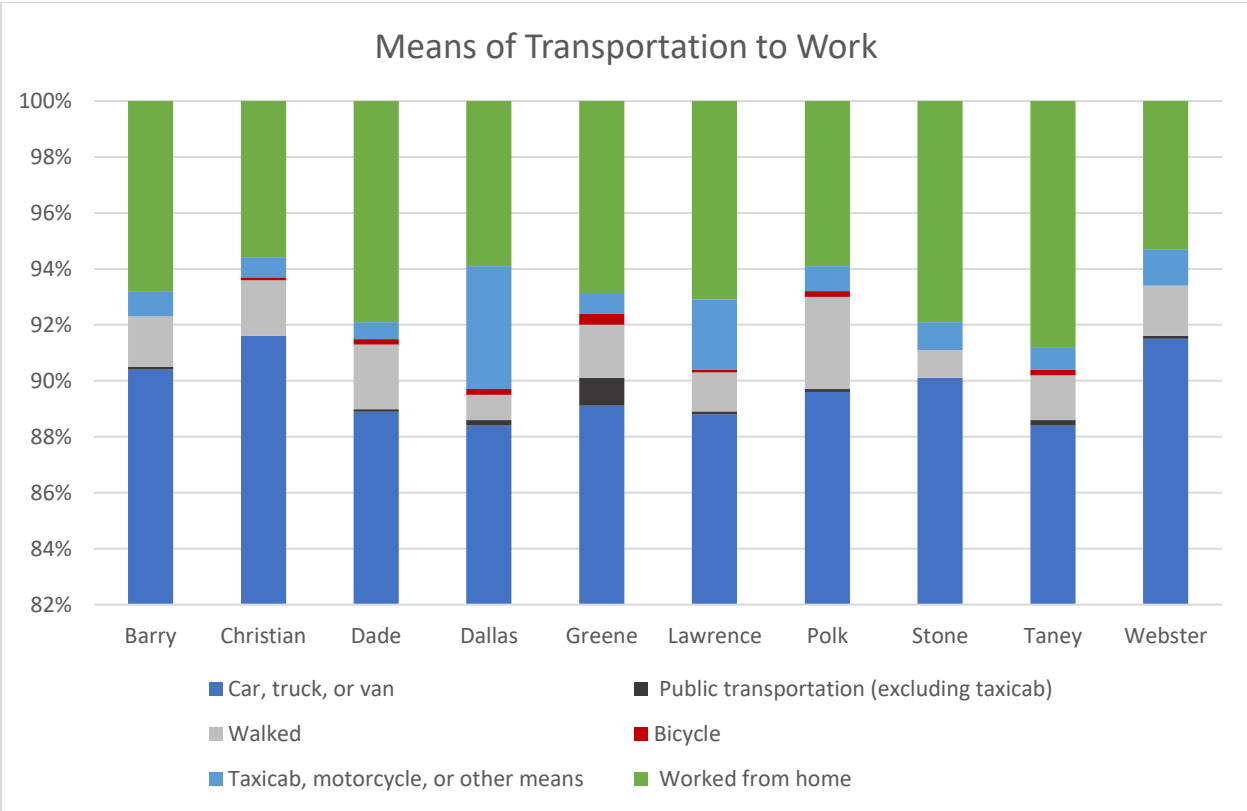


Figure 10 Source: US Census-2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates

The main mode of transportation in the region is a car, truck, or van. This may include people who depend on other's personal vehicle to commute. However, a public transit option may be desired. Therefore, having alternative means of transportation is important to improve access to various areas in the region.

Public Involvement

Public involvement in the planning process is necessary for the successful implementation of the plan. To engage the public in the planning process, SMCOG held community meetings throughout the region and invited human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users.

Kickoff Meetings Schedule		
Taney County	Feb-28	Forsyth City Hall
Polk County	Mar-2	Bolivar City Hall
Webster County	Mar-2	Marshfield Senior Center
Dallas County	Mar-3	Dallas County Annex Building
Stone County	Mar-7	Kimberling City Community Center
Barry County	Mar-9	Cassville City Hall
Greene County	Mar-10	Fair Grove City Hall
Lawrence County	Mar-21	Mt. Vernon City Hall
Christian County	Mar-22	Christian County Library
Dade County	Mar-23	Dade County Emergency Management Agency

Table 4 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

Kickoff Meetings

Community meetings were held in all ten counties of the SMCOG region. The table to the left shows the meeting dates and locations for each county's meetings.

The purpose of these meetings was to speak with individuals and organizations

involved in the provision or usage of public transportation. Attendees were introduced to the SMCOG staff and informed of the need for an updated plan. The importance of public involvement and the role of SMCOG were also discussed. The main task of the meetings was to gather information about issues and needs in the community regarding public transportation, with specific emphasis on seniors and individuals with disabilities and low-income.

Information gathered from the first round of public meetings is summarized below. It should be noted that some public meetings did not have attendees and are therefore not listed below.

Barry County

- The main barriers to public transit are geography, distance, and weather, which limits how effectively OATS is able to reach residents.
- Road and infrastructure conditions are also quite poor and make accessibility difficult for both public transit services and residents.
- OATS lacks the funding to run every day, and is limited to only 4 days a week, during which they travel to different cities in the county.
 - OATS hours often don't align with those needed for medical appointments.
- Main destinations include local family life centers, clinics, dentists, and other medical facilities, as well as the YMCA for social events, and the Roaring River State Park for work.

Dade County

- Many residents lack personal vehicles and are reliant on either public transit options, family, or volunteers.
- OATS has had trouble getting ridership and has had miscommunications with residents.
 - Some residents reported calling OATS and then never being picked up.
 - OATS services the county only one day per week.
- OATS needs to work with the senior centers in the area to arrange routes between them and other needed destinations, such as to medical appointments in Springfield and Bolivar.
 - There is currently no OATS route to Springfield from Dade County.
 - In the past, OATS struggled to acquire ridership needed to maintain such routes.

Dallas County

- OATS covers the entire county, and runs routes 5 days per week, 8 hours per day.
 - Are available for appointment pickups if requested 30 days in advance.
- There is a high poverty rate in the county.
 - Estimated that 400-600 families don't have personal vehicles.
- There is a stigma against using public transit, rather than driving themselves, and rumors have spread that hurt OATS' reputation.
 - There is a potential need for a marketing and advertising campaign for OATS.
- Need to focus on underserved populations who live outside of the main cities.
 - These include the county's Mennonite and Amish population.
 - The latter will not use OATS and will only use locally funded public transit.

Greene County

- OATS is the primary public transit service provider outside of Springfield.
- Many seniors are anxious to go to Springfield due to its intimidating traffic, and would rather go to Marshfield, Buffalo, or Bolivar.
- OATS within the county is funded by the Greene County Senior Service Fund, but that funding only applies to Greene County residents.
 - There is a need for funding to serve residents from other counties.
- Within Springfield, only seniors can ride the OATS bus, and all residents younger than 60 are served by buses run by City Utilities.
- OATS is established in Fair Grove, and runs 5 days per week, but most trips are limited to senior centers.
 - OATS would like to change this and should advertise the other destinations they can take riders to, such as to the grocery store and other shops.
- Many seniors are interested in using OATS to reach the grocery stores, but their scheduling doesn't line up with OATS route schedules.

Lawrence County

- Mt. Vernon has an affordable taxi service (both cars and larger vans; all are accessible) which serves those within city limits.
 - \$1 per ride, or \$0.50 for seniors.
 - Subsidized by federal funding.
 - Despite this, funding for operational costs is still limited.

- Offers rides Tuesday-Thursday.
 - Lacks drivers so they can't offer 5-day service.
- Funding and staffing are big issues for both OATS and other public transit providers.
- Difficulty in scheduling routes to accommodate all work schedules.
 - Many residents take buses to work, and then are forced to walk home.
- Many residents also use transportation provided by Medicaid, as it is free for those users.
- There is a need for more transportation options in North Lawrence County, as most are focused on the south.
 - This is especially true for residents with developmental disabilities.

Polk County

- There are existing taxi services in many towns and cities.
- Uber and Lyft are options many would be interested in.
 - Potential problems include cost, and technology barrier for seniors.
 - Could be contracted or subsidized.
- There is a desire for OATS to be more accessible and have a more flexible and regular schedule.
- Some cities used to have subsidized bus services, but they were shut down due to lack of ridership.
 - Maybe different now, as there appears to be more demand.
 - Many churches have bus services as well.
- Most demand is directed towards trips to Springfield, with Kansas City and St. Louis being secondary priorities.

Stone County

- Geography is the largest barrier to public transit in the county, as the distance between towns is large and the terrain is hard to navigate.
 - As such, OATS treats the Northern and Southern halves of the county as separate, with their own days for routes.
- It is difficult to find funding for the operational costs (wages, fuel, etc.) associated with public transit in the area.
 - Grant funding would be very helpful here.
- Residents are finding it difficult or impossible to get to medical appointments, food pantries, or public facilities such as senior centers.
- Primary destinations include Springfield, Branson, and Harrison (AR) for appointments, as well as Silver Dollar City and Indian Point for employment.
- There is very little coordination between transportation services.
 - Residents are interested in the potential for a coordinated hub-and-spoke transit system, where local organizations and providers, such as senior and medical centers, as well potentially Uber/Lyft, take riders to a central location where OATS could then take them to long-distance destinations.

Taney County

- There is a need for 5310 funding application preparation guidance.
- As a rural county, a traditional bus system will not be effective.
- OATS is the primary rural transportation provider in the area.

- There is a need for a feeder route from different parts of the county to more concentrated OATS pickup locations.
- Many people have issues maintaining their personal vehicles.
 - Perhaps an organization could be formed to help subsidize mechanical costs.
- There are many J-1 students (estimated to be about 1,000 in 2023) who have no means of transportation other than public transit, carpooling, or walking.

Webster County

- There are some notable issues with the OATS service in the county.
 - Limited hours, especially for workers.
 - No weekends availability
 - Buses are full every day.
 - There is a lack of drivers, as there is only demand during the mornings and afternoons, leaving them unable to work during the middle of the day.
 - Many routes have only a limited reach outside of cities or around senior centers.
 - Pickups for appointments require notice up to a month in advance, which can make taking care of immediate issues difficult.
- There is a need for alternate methods of movement aside from OATS, as people need to reach specific locations on days OATS may not be available.
 - Medicare/Medicaid allows people to use Uber/Lyft and other ride-share services.
 - There are many volunteers from senior centers who drive people to appointments but are only paid for gas.

Follow-up Meetings

A series of follow-up meetings were held in each of the ten counties. The table to the right shows the meeting dates and locations for each county.

The purpose of these meeting was to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. Following the initial kickoff meetings, each county’s input was compiled to develop strategies to address those needs. These needs and strategies were then shown to the public in the follow-up meetings, and participants were asked to identify the most important needs and strategies.

	Prioritization Schedule	Meetings
Dallas County	Jun-12	Dallas County Annex Building
Greene County	Jun-12	Fair Grove Senior Center
Webster County	Jun-13	Marshfield Senior Center
Taney County	Jun-14	Forsyth Senior Center
Polk County	Jun-15	Polk County Senior Center
Barry County	Jun-20	Cassville Senior Center
Stone County	Jun-21	Kimberling City Senior Center
Christian County	Jun-22	Christian County Library - Clever
Dade County	Jun-22	Dade County Senior Center

Table 5 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

This information will follow in the public prioritization section. Attendees were also asked to provide feedback on any information regarding transportation services. The information gathered is listed below.

Barry County

- Need transportation to Rogers, Arkansas and/or Springfield for medical appointments

Christian County

- Not able to pick up residents if the road conditions are very bad
 - If it is unsafe
 - If it damages vehicles
 - Liability issues
- Need central authority over all organizations if you want to span collaboration. Transit routes are bound by county borders and have difficulty traveling between. Organizations that don't get federal funding are severely limited by this

Dade County

- Older adults that need transportation need reliable and consistent scheduling
- It should be free for those over 65 years
- Funding opportunities for individuals (local drivers) using personal vehicle to take people to their destinations e.g. gas money
- Advocate for additional funding to support local drivers
- Funding for Springfield and Bolivar routes

Dallas County

- Current Medicaid transportation is not reliable. It is not able to fund drivers
- Coordinating with the VA, a need for cross-agency collaboration
- Need for local, regional grant workshop (especially public transportation)

Greene County

- Bring back donation system
- Email newsletter for transit
- Send information in more accessible formats
- More routes for better timing

Lawrence County

- Need passenger rail in SW Missouri

Taney County

- More opportunities for low-income individuals (free fare)
- Main concern is taking seniors to medical appointments in Springfield
- Coordinate with local organizations to set up routes. No need for multiple buses for people living only a mile apart. Create a route that accommodates all

Survey Results

The survey was collected from seniors, individuals with disabilities, residents living below the poverty line, transportation providers, and human service agencies for this plan. The transportation providers and human service agencies were identified and contacted by mail and email for additional information if

available. Additionally, participants were asked to share any other information with the service providers that might have been overlooked in the survey process.

Survey

A single survey was created to address each of the target areas: seniors, individuals with disabilities, and individuals with low-income, human service providers, and transportation providers. These surveys were distributed in several ways; paper copies of the survey were available at all ten community meetings, paper copies were distributed to senior centers and food pantries in the region, and available online from February 14, 2023 to March 31, 2023 at www.smcog.org. 115 letters were sent to human service agencies and transportation service providers. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

Completed Survey Responses

- 26 Human Service Provider Surveys
- 4 Transportation Provider Surveys
- 52 User Surveys

Results

A total of eighty-one surveys were completed. The results of the survey will follow in the next sections and raw totals can be found in Appendix B.

Human Service Agencies

A variety of human service agencies provided input for this plan as listed in Table 6. Of the 26 human service agencies that completed the survey, eleven were government human service agencies, eleven were private non-profit agencies, and four identified as others. Figure 11 displays what type of clientele the agencies serve.

When asked what type of transportation services the clients from the agencies utilized, twelve responded with demand response/on-demand services, eleven responded with fixed route with fixed schedule, six responded with door-to-door services, six responded with same-day services, and two answered with thru-the-door services.

Human Service Agencies
Fordland Clinic
Developmental Center of the Ozarks
Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
Options Pregnancy Clinic
Forsyth Care Center
39 th Judicial Circuit Treatment
OACAC – Taney County
Burrell Behavioral Health
Cox Health Center Branson West
OACAC- Webster County
Stone Ridge Housing Partners, LP
Polk County Health Center
Community Connections

Family Support Division- Polk County
Polk County Children’s Division
Alpha House Pregnancy Resource Center
Community Outreach Ministries

Table 6 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

The majority of the human service agencies help their clients obtain transportation by referring them to transportation providers, covering part of the cost for transportation, and coordinating with other agencies to schedule transportation. Destinations requested/needed by the clients included those to medical facilities, shopping centers, senior centers, financial institutions, and others.

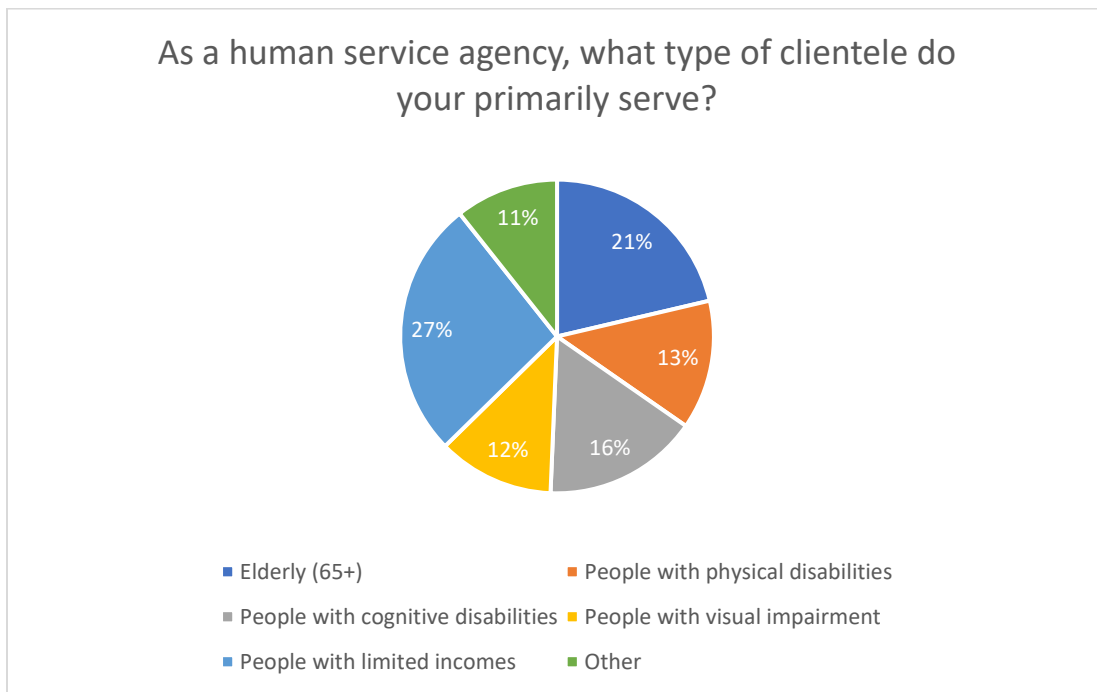


Figure 11 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

Transportation Providers

The transportation providers allow for medical, recreation, and education trips; some are limited to the City of Springfield, while some providers travel to rural areas such as Sparta, Nixa, Branson, and Bolivar. Table 7 lists the transportation providers that responded to the survey. Service types included in the survey are door-to-door and demand response/on-demand.

- Door-to-door services allow users to be picked up and dropped off directly from their location of choice. Door-to-door usually includes assistance from the transportation provider.
- Demand response/on-demand services provide transportation based on passengers needs and requests. This service does not usually operate on a fixed route or timetabled schedule, therefore providing flexibility for the users.

Of the transportation service providers that responded to the survey, four provided demand response/on-demand services and three provided door-to-door services.

Transportation Providers
City of Mount Vernon
Burrell Behavioral Health
Stone Ridge Housing Partners, LP
New Growth Transit, LLC

Table 7 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

The types of clients served by the transportation provider respondents were individuals who have a disability, those over the age of 60, and living below the poverty level. These transportation services are not specifically targeted towards the groups mentioned as other individuals can use them. Most transportation providers have eligibility requirements for persons wanting to use their services; most require a person to be a resident of community or a client of their program. According to the survey, the transportation providers responded that their services were restricted in some way such as medical visits only, geographic restrictions, and others.

The transportation providers' primary days of operation are mostly during the weekdays, with a few open on the weekends and in the evenings. This reflects an increase in user demand for more weekend and evening trips to various destinations.

Users

Outreach for transportation users was focused on seniors, individuals with disabilities, and residents living below the poverty line. The survey was distributed online as well as paper copies at public meetings and senior centers. Paper copies were dropped off at senior centers, food pantries, OACAC, and OATS buses throughout the region.

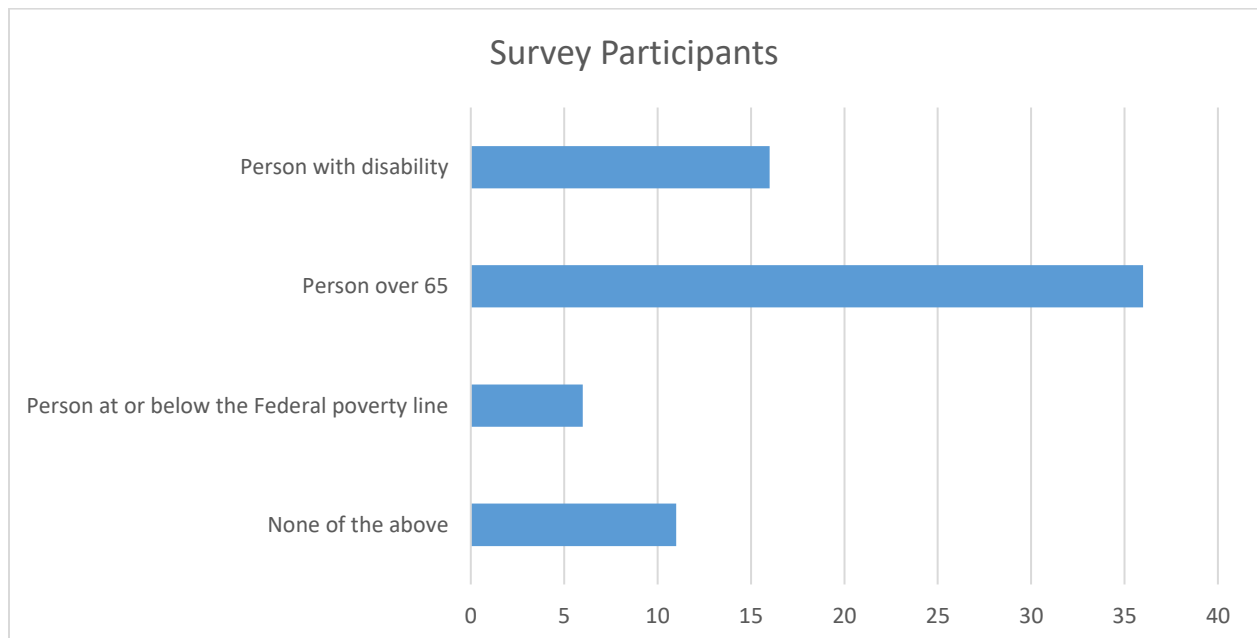


Figure 12 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

Figure 11 summarizes the participants that completed the user survey. The largest survey group is participants who identified as over 65, which was about 53% of the total users. It should also be noted that individuals in this group might identify as a person who belongs in multiple categories. For those that completed the survey and have a disability, 46% have a physical disability, 9% have a visual disability, and 3% have a cognitive disability. When asked the open-ended questions regarding what destinations users would like to see improved access to, respondents stated these following destinations as the highest need:

- Medical facilities – 37
- Bank or other local businesses – 32
- Restaurants – 26
- Senior Center – 25

Figure 13 displays information on what can be changed to better meet the user’s transportation needs. The top selected answers were:

- Evening Service – 12
- Weekend Service – 12
- Affordability – 11
- Door to Door Service – 9

This shows a desire for evening and weekend service to the highest need destinations such as medical facilities, events, and shopping centers. On the open-ended questions of the survey on comments regarding transportation, most respondents mentioned accessibility, affordability, and more transportation options with more services. Affordability for transportation services was highly requested by the survey respondents to get access to various locations. This is because about 14% of respondents rely on government assistance and 20% get help from family or friends to pay for transportation.

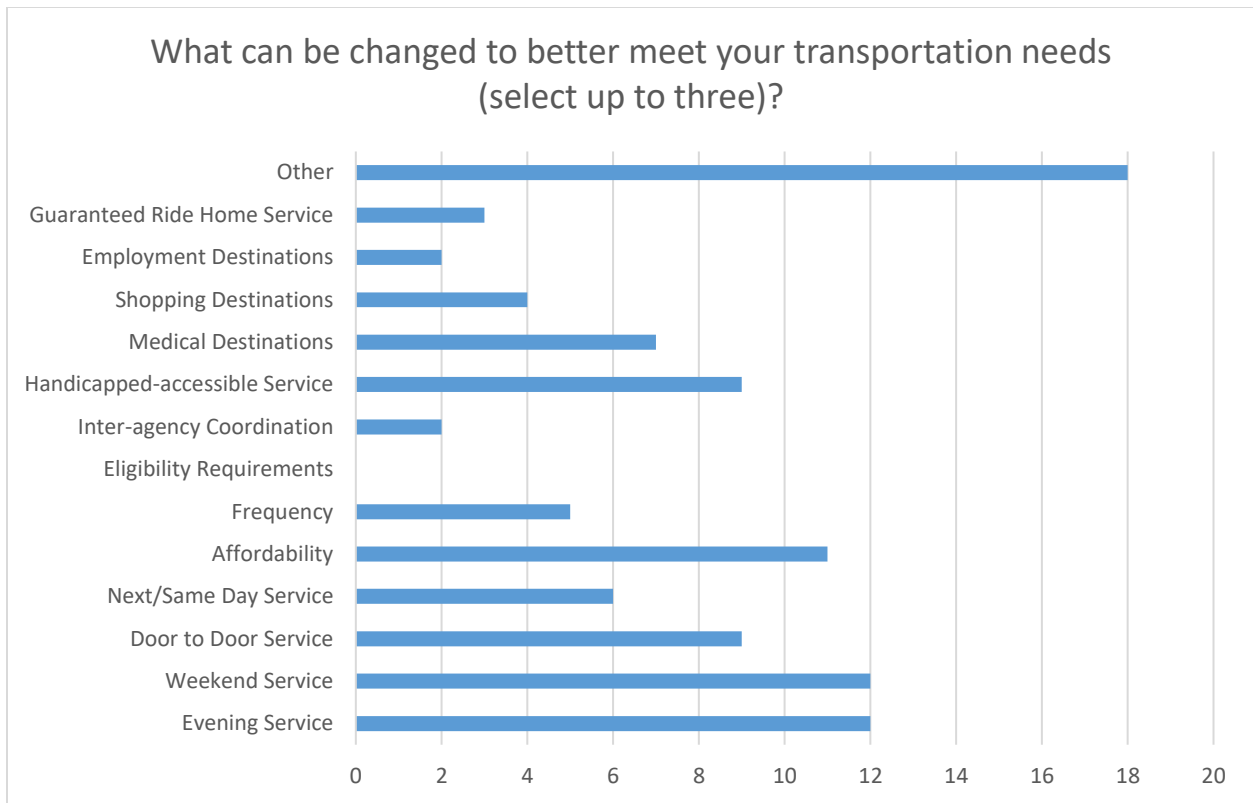


Figure 13 Source: 2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Survey

Needs Assessment

The survey of human service agencies, transportation providers, and users identified several key needs for the regional transit system. These needs are summarized in the section below.

Human Service / Transportation Provider Needs

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes
- More funding to support low-income users
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends
- Access to handicapped-accessible services
- Lower costs for transit

- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries

Strategies

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers

Prioritization of Needs and Strategies

A second round of public meetings were held for all 10 counties in the SMCOG region. During each of the public meetings, attendees were asked to prioritize needs and strategies by placing dots on a board that displayed the identified needs and strategies. They were asked to place one dot on whichever need that they felt was the most important in the human service/transportation provider needs section, and one dot in the user needs section. They could then use the remaining three dots in the strategies section. The three dots in the strategies section could all be placed on one strategy or on different ones. Attendees also provided additional comments regarding transportation needs/concerns. These comments were listed in the follow-up meetings section. The needs/strategies boards used at the follow-up meetings can be found in Appendix D. The prioritized list of needs/strategies identified in the meetings is listed below:

Human Service / Transportation Provider Needs

- More funding to support low-income users (36)
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes (32)
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers (18)
- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles (17)
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers (17)

User Needs

- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations (46)
- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends (24)
- Lower costs for transit (22)
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries (22)
- Access to handicapped-accessible services (18)

Strategies

- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals (74)
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers (72)
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services (60)
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability (57)
- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region (33)
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers (30)

1st Priority Strategy: Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals.

Addressing affordability of transportation services for vulnerable populations emerged as the top priority during public meetings. Community members recognized the pressing need to ensure that low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals have access to affordable transportation options. Many in these demographics face significant challenges in accessing essential services, job opportunities, and healthcare due to current transportation costs. Some activities to improve affordability may include introducing discounted fare programs for qualified individuals, exploring subsidies to reduce financial burden, and establishing partnerships with non-profit organizations to provide additional support.

2nd Priority Strategy: Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers.

Recognizing the crucial role of rural transit providers in connecting remote areas and smaller communities, the second-ranked strategy is to advocate for additional funding. Community members emphasized that these services are often a lifeline for residents in less densely populated regions, and ensuring their sustainability and expansion is of paramount importance. Some activities to advocate additional funding may include educating elected officials of the public transit needs and advocating for dedicated state funding.

3rd Priority Strategy: Raise awareness of existing transportation services.

While there are various transportation services, community members expressed the need to increase awareness about these options. Many residents, particularly newcomers or those who rarely use public transportation, may be unaware of the available services and how to access them. Communicating with the public about what services are available and how to utilize them would provide the public with greater access to these services. Some activities to raise awareness may involve public service announcements, targeted advertisements, community outreach events, and informational materials distributed through schools, healthcare facilities, and community centers.

4th Priority Strategy: Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability.

The fourth-ranked strategy centers on fostering collaboration between various stakeholders involved in the transportation system. Community members recognized that a seamless and well-coordinated

transportation network requires strong partnerships between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies. Some activities to enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies in the SMCOG region may include the creation of a Multimodal Transportation Advisory Committee (MMTAC) and providing funding to SMCOG to facilitate the MMTAC.

5th Priority Strategy: Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region.

Acknowledging the importance of maintaining the existing transportation infrastructure, the fifth-ranked strategy emphasizes the need for consistent investment in the SMCOG region's transportation services. Regular maintenance and upgrades are vital to ensure the safety and reliability of transportation options. Some activities to maintain and expand transportation services may include securing funding for the ongoing maintenance of vehicles, infrastructure, and facilities, and exploring opportunities for expanding services to underserved areas or increasing the frequency of existing routes to accommodate growing demand.

6th Priority Strategy: Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers.

Recognizing the workforce challenges faced by human service agencies and transportation providers, the sixth-ranked strategy aims to support their efforts in recruiting additional staff and volunteers. A well-trained and dedicated workforce is essential for delivering high-quality transportation services to the community. Some activities may include collaborating with workforce development agencies to offer incentives to attract new talent to the transportation sector, engaging the community, and encouraging volunteer participation in supporting transportation services.

Plan Adoption

The plan will be used as a roadmap for improving public transportation in SMCOG's region. The strategies identified in the plan are connected to grant funding. Various grants are identified in the funding overview section and will provide guidance for future projects to promote adequate utilization of federal grants.

The PTHSTCP draft was posted on the SMCOG website on September 11, 2023, for a thirty-day public comment period. Public notices were sent throughout the region to request the public to review the plan and provide input. The plan was reviewed and adopted by SMCOG's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on November 8, 2023. The final plan was adopted by the SMCOG Board on December 6, 2023.

Appendix A: Survey Questions

Transit Coordination Plan: Human Service Agency Survey

You are invited to participate in the *Southwest Missouri Council of Government's* Transit Coordination Plan: Human Service Agency Survey. This survey will provide insights into how area human service agencies serve the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished. The results of this survey will be combined with the results of a transportation provider survey and a transportation user survey to provide information for an updated Transit Coordination Plan. It will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

This survey is intended for human service agencies that do NOT provide transportation services for their clientele. If your agency owns and operates vehicles for the purposes of transporting seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished, please take our transportation provider survey.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point. It is very important for us to learn your opinions. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Aishwarya Shrestha at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu or by phone at 417-836-6901. This survey will close on March 31, 2023.

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Return completed surveys to:
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
110 Park Central Square
Springfield, MO 65806

The following questions will ask for basic information about your organization, including contact information, clientele served, and geographic service area.

Contact Information

Name of Organization	<input type="text"/>
Person Completing Survey	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

What type of organization are you? *

- Government Human Service Agency
- Private Non-Profit Human Service Agency
- Other
-

As a human service agency, what type of clientele do you primarily serve (Select all that apply)?

- Elderly (65 w)
- People with physical disabilities
- People with cognitive disabilities
- People with visual impairments
- People with limited incomes
- Other
-

Please describe your geographic service area (Please include names of cities and counties). *

Please provide a mission statement for your agency or general description of services provided. *

The following questions will ask about how you assist your clientele, your clientele's transportation needs, and how you coordinate with other area agencies.

How do you help your clients obtain transportation (Select all that apply)?

- We do not provide assistance with obtaining transportation
- Reserve/ schedule transportation
- Refer clients to transportation providers
- Coordinate transportation connections
- Coordination with other agencies to schedule transportation
- Cover part of the cost for transportation
- Purchase transportation from a provider
- Other
-

If you purchase transportation services. From what sources do the funds come (Select all that apply)? *

- State funds
- Federal funds
- Donations/ Fund raising/ Volunteers
- City County (Special transportation district funding)
- Other
-

What type of mobility limitations do your clientele have (Select all that apply)? *

- Age-Related
- Physical
- Cognitive
- Visual
- Remote location
- Financial limitations
- Lack of transit for reasons other than financial
- Other
-

What types of trips do your clients make? *

What type of transportation services do your clients utilize (Select all that apply)? *

- Fixed Route with Fixed Schedule
- Door-to-door
- Thru-the-door
- Demand response/on-demand
- Same-day service
- Other
-

When do your clients need services (Select all that apply)?

- Weekdays
- Weekends
- Evenings
- 24/7
- Holidays
- Other
-

What destinations are needed/ most often requested by your clients that are not served? Please include names of cities or specific destinations. *

How many of your clients rely on transportation services in an average week? *

The following questions will ask about your organization's short-term and long-term needs.

What do you think the needs of your agency are in the short term (1-6 years)? Please be as specific as possible. *

What do you think the needs of your agency are in the long term (7-15 years)? *

In what ways would you consider coordinating with other agencies in providing transportation services for your clientele? *

Please provide any additional information you deem relevant to the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Transit Coordination Plan: Transportation Provider Survey

You are invited to participate in the Southwest Missouri Council of Government's Transit Coordination Plan: Transportation Provider Survey. This survey will provide insights into how area transportation providers serve the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished. The results of this survey will be combined with the results of a human service agencies survey and a transportation user survey to provide information for an updated Transit Coordination Plan. It will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

This survey is intended for transportation providers and human service agencies that provide transportation services for their clientele. If you do not own or operate vehicles for the purposes of transporting seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished, please take our human service agency survey.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. There are no foreseeable risks associated with this project. However, if you feel uncomfortable answering any questions, you can withdraw from the survey at any point. It is very important for us to learn your opinions. If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Aishwarya Shrestha at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu or by phone at 417-836-6901. This survey will close on March 31, 2023.

Thank you very much for your time and support.

Return completed surveys to:
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
110 Park Central Square
Springfield, MO 65806

The following questions will ask for basic information about your organization, including contact information, clientele served, and geographic service area.

Contact Information

Name of Organization	<input type="text"/>
Person Completing Survey	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text"/>

What type of transportation provider are you (Select all that apply)?

- Private/Commercial provider with handicapped accessibility
- Taxi Service
- Public Transit System
- Government Human Service Agency
- Private Non-Profit Human Service Agency
- Private Non-Profit Transportation Provider

- Private For-Profit Provider
- Other
-

Please describe your geographic service area (Include names of cities and counties served). *

Please provide a mission statement for your agency or general description of services provided. *

The following questions will ask about the services you provide and efforts at coordinating with area agencies.

What services do you provide (Select all that apply)? *

- Fixed Route with Fixed Schedule
- Door-to-door
- Thru-the-door
- Demand response/on-demand
- Same-day service
- Other
-

What type of trips do you provide (medical, general transportation, social)? *

What destinations or areas do you serve most frequently? *

When is your service available (Select all that apply)? *

- Weekdays
- Weekends
- Evenings
- 24/7
- Holidays
- Selected Days Only

Are your transportation services restricted in any way (i.e., medical visits only, job training only, geographic restriction)? *

- Yes
- No

Please describe any coordination you have with other organizations regarding transportation services. *

The following question will ask about the individuals that utilize your transportation services.

For what age groups are your transportation services designed (Select all that apply)? *

- Under 18
- 18-54
- 55-65
- Over 65
- Any Age
- Other
-

Are your transportation services specifically targeted towards low-income individuals? *

- Yes
- No
- Other
-

Are our transportation services specifically targeted towards individuals with disabilities? *

- Yes
- No
- Other
-

Please describe any eligibility requirements users must meet to utilize your transportation services. *

In what ways are you unable to meet the needs of your users/clients? *

The following questions will ask about the type and condition of vehicles in your transportation fleet.

What types of do you own (Select all that apply)?

- Cars
- Trucks
- Van
- Light Duty Buses
- Medium Duty Buses
- Other

Please indicate how many vehicles of each type your organization owns.

Cars* XTR

Trucks * XTR

Van * XTR

Light Duty Buses * XTR

Medium Duty Buses * XTR

Other * XTR

On average, how many miles do each type of vehicle owned by your organization have?

Cars * XTR

Trucks * XTR

Van * XTR

Light Duty Buses * XTR

Medium Duty Buses * XTR

Other * XTR

How many people do you have the capacity to transport with each type of vehicle in your fleet?

Cars * XTR

Trucks * XTR

Van *XTR

Light Duty Buses * XTR

Medium Duty Buses * XTR

Other * XTR

The following questions will ask about how your transportation services are funded and your transportation budget.

How are your transportation services funded (Select all that apply)?

- Charging Clients
- State Funds
- Federal Funds
- Donations/Fundraising/Volunteers
- City/County/ Special transportation district funding
- Other
-

Do you provide services for those unable to pay?

- Yes
- No

Please provide your agency's annual transportation revenues.

Fares *

FTA Grants *

Other Sources of Revenue (please break down by source) *

The following questions will ask about your organization's short-term and long-term

Please list specific planned projects and costs related to your transportation services (i.e. replacement of 2 vans : \$50,000)

What do you think the needs of your transportation services are in the short term (1-6 years)? Please be as specific as possible. *

What do you think the needs of your transportation services are in the long-term (7-15 years)?

Are you interested in expanding your specialized transportation services (Select all that apply)? *

- No
- Geographic coverage
- Evening service
- Weekend service
- Handicapped-accessible service
- Door-to-door
- Lower fares
- Medical trips

- Non—medical trips
- Employment trips
- Inter-agency coordination
- Other
-

Transit Coordination Plan: User Survey

You are invited to please take our survey regarding the transportation needs of SENIORS, PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY, and PERSONS OF LIMITED INCOME.

For questions, go to www.SMCOG.org or contact If you have questions at any time about the survey or the procedures, you may contact Aishwarya Shrestha at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu or by phone at 417-836-6901. This survey will close on March 31, 2023.

Please return completed surveys to:

Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
110 Park Central Square
Springfield, MO 65806

Contact Information

First Name:

Last Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Please provide your 5-digit Zip Code. *

Please indicate where you live: *

- Within a City (i.e., Monett, Greenfield, Rogersville, etc.) _
- Not within a City (northern Stone County, west of Buffalo, etc.)

Please check the statements you identify with (Select all that apply).*

2021 Federal Poverty Guidelines		
Size of Family unit	Annual	Monthly
1	\$12,880	\$1,073
2	\$17,420	\$1,452
3	\$21,960	\$1,830
4	\$26,500	\$2,208
5	\$31,040	\$2,587

- A person with a disability
- A person over 65
- A person at or below the Federal poverty line
- None of the above

What types of disabilities do you have (Select all that apply)?

- Physical
- Cognitive
- Visual
- N/A

Please check the statements you identify with (Select all that apply). *

- Full-time Employee
- Retired
- Student
- Part-time Worker
- Full-time Volunteer
- Part-time Volunteer
- Unable to Work

Where do you go on a regular basis (Select all that apply)?

- Work
- Senior Center
- Restaurants
- Food Pantry
- School/ College
- Medical Facilities
- Bank or other local businesses
- Visiting (family/friends)
- Child Care
- Shopping Centers
- Religious Services
- Recreation
- I am unable to leave my home on a regular basis
- Other
-

Where do you find it difficult to visit (Select all that apply)? *

- Work
- Senior Center
- Restaurants

- Food Pantry
- School/College
- Medical Facilities
- Bank or other local businesses
- Visiting (family/ friends)
- Child Care
- Shopping Centers
- Religious Services
- Recreation
- I am unable to leave my home on a regular basis
- Other
-

Please rank your top three most-used modes of transportation. *

- Personal Vehicle
- Friend or Family Vehicle
- OATS
- Van or Bus provided by my agency
- Taxi
- Walk
- Bike
- I am unable to leave my home on a regular basis
- Other
-

Please indicate how well your ranked top three modes of transportation serve your needs.

Very Poorly Poorly Neutral Well Very Well Do Not Use

Personal Vehicle *

Friends and Family *

OATS *

Agency Vehicle *

Taxi *

Walking *

Biking *

Other *

How do you pay for your transportation (Select all that apply)? *

- Earned Income
- Government Assistance
- Help from Family and Friends
- I don't have to pay for transportation

What can be changed to better meet your transportation needs (select up to three)?

- Evening Service

- Weekend Service
- Door to Door Service
- Next/Same day service
- Through the door service
- Affordability
- Frequency
- Eligibility Requirements
- Inter-agency Coordination
- Handicapped-accessible Service
- Medical Destinations
- Shopping Destinations
- Employment Destinations
- Guaranteed Ride Home Service
- Other
-

What destinations would you like improved access to? *

What other comments would you like to make about transportation choices in the Ozarks?

Appendix B: Survey Results

1. Are you a user of the transit network or a transportation/human service organization?

[More Details](#)

● User	52
● Organization	29



2. What is the name of your organization?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

29

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

8 respondents (28%) answered **Polk county** for this question. ...



3. Who is the person completing this survey?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

29

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

4. Phone Number:

[More Details](#)

 Insights

29

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

5. Email Address:

[More Details](#)

28

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

6. Please describe your geographic service area (Include names of cities and counties served).

[More Details](#)

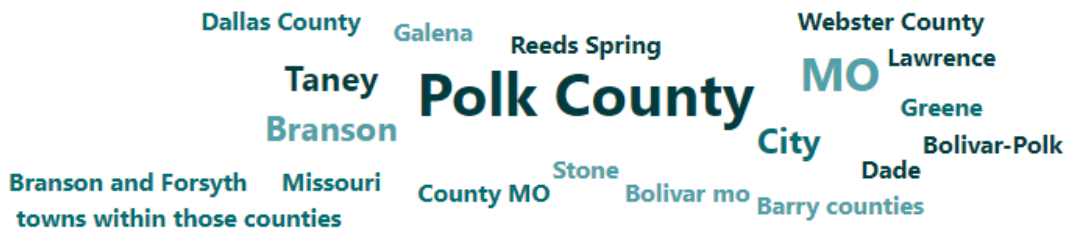
 Insights

29

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

10 respondents (34%) answered **Polk County** for this question. ...



7. Please provide a mission statement for your agency or general description of services provided.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

29

Responses

Latest Responses



8. What type of organization are you?

[More Details](#)

- Human Service Agency 26
- Transportation Provider 3



9. What type of organization are you?

[More Details](#)

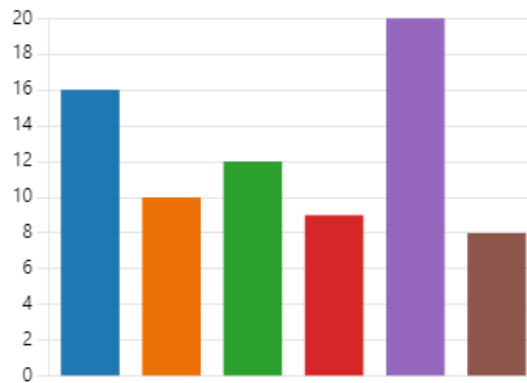
- Government Human Service Ag... 11
- Private Non-Profit Human Servi... 11
- Other 4



10. As a human service agency, what type of clientele do you primarily serve (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

● Elderly (65+)	16
● People with physical disabilities	10
● People with cognitive disabilities	12
● People with visual impairment	9
● People with limited incomes	20
● Other	8

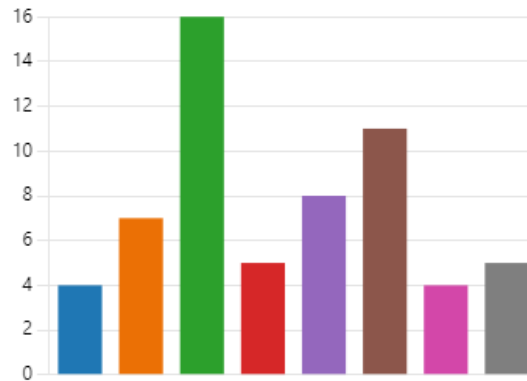


11. The following questions will ask about how you assist your clientele, your clientele's transportation needs, and how you coordinate with other area agencies.

How do you help your clients obtain transportation (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

● We do not provide assistance wi...	4
● Reserve/ schedule transportation	7
● Refer clients to transportation p...	16
● Coordinate transportation conn...	5
● Coordination with other agencie...	8
● Cover part of the cost for transp...	11
● Purchase transportation from a ...	4
● Other	5



12. If you purchase transportation services. From what sources do the funds come (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

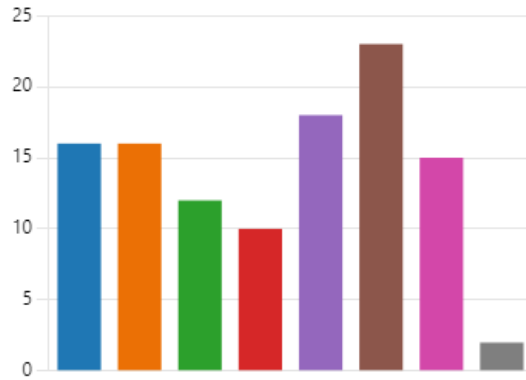
● State funds	3
● Federal funds	3
● Donations/ Fund raising/ Volunt...	9
● City County (Special transportati...	0
● Other	14



13. What type of mobility limitations do your clientele have (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

● Age-Related	16
● Physical	16
● Cognitive	12
● Visual	10
● Remote location	18
● Financial limitations	23
● Lack of transit for reasons other ...	15
● Other	2



14. What types of trips do your clients make?

[More Details](#)

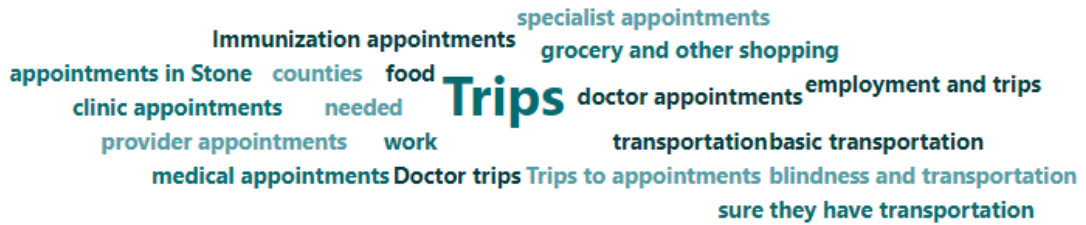
[Insights](#)

26

Responses

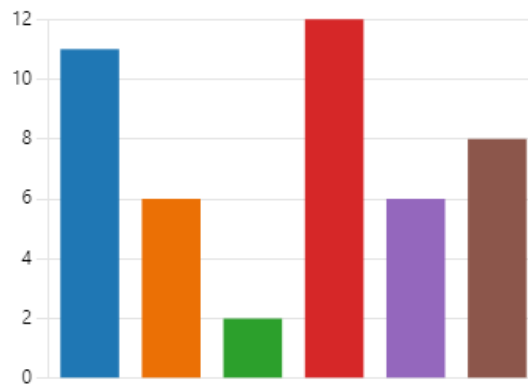
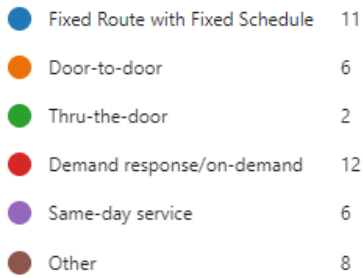
Latest Responses

9 respondents (35%) answered **Trips** for this question.



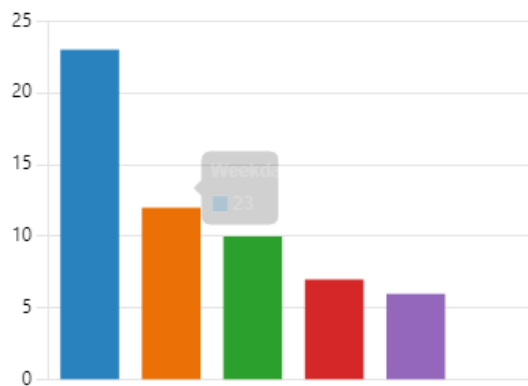
15. What type of transportation services do your clients utilize (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)



16. When do your clients need services (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)



17. What destinations are needed/ most often requested by your clients that are not served? Please include names of cities or specific destinations.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

26

Responses

Latest Responses

9 respondents (35%) answered **Springfield** for this question.



18. How many of your clients rely on transportation services in an average week?

[More Details](#)

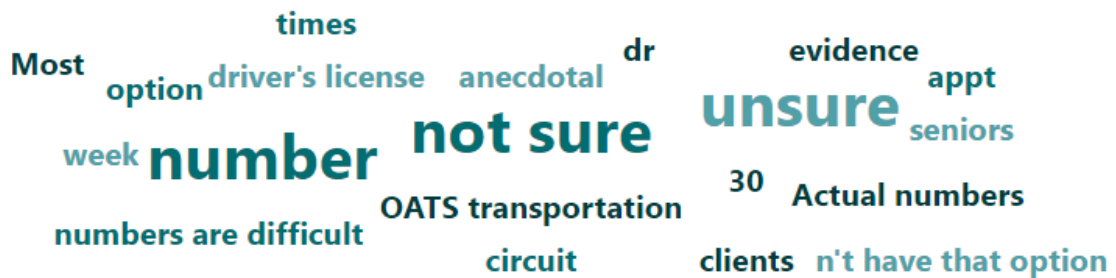
[Insights](#)

26

Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (8%) answered **not sure** for this question.



19. The following questions will ask about your organization's short-term and long-term needs.

What do you think the needs of your agency are in the short term (1-6 years)? Please be as specific as possible.

[More Details](#)

 Insights

26

Responses

Latest Responses


18 respondents (69%) answered **transportation** for this question. ...

TRANSPORTATION TO OUR FACILITIES



20. What do you think the needs of your agency are in the long term (7-15 years)?

[More Details](#)

 Insights

26

Responses

Latest Responses

10 respondents (38%) answered **transportation** for this question. ...



21. In what ways would you consider coordinating with other agencies in providing transportation services for your clientele?

[More Details](#)

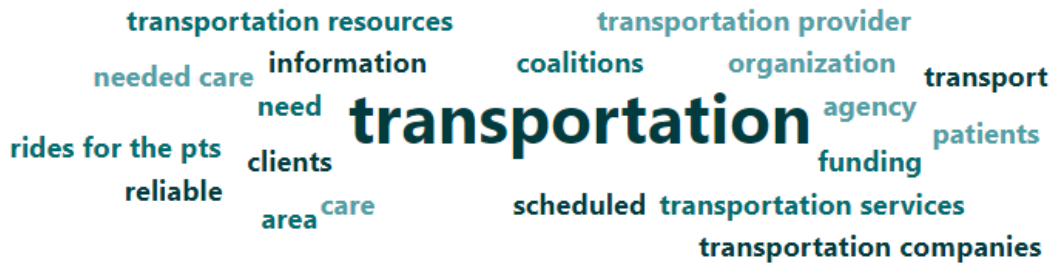
[Insights](#)

26

Responses

Latest Responses

9 respondents (35%) answered **transportation** for this question.



22. Please provide any additional information you deem relevant to the transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

[More Details](#)

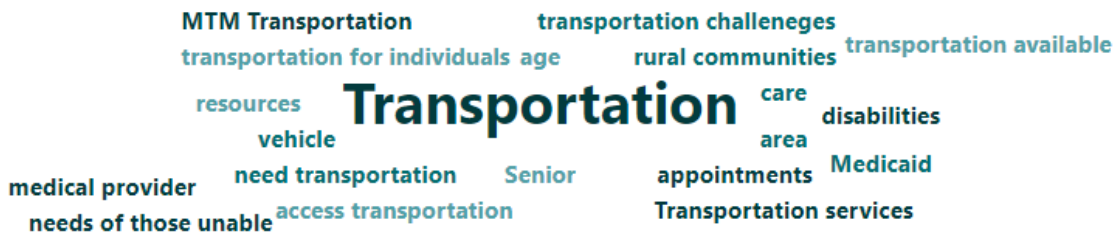
[Insights](#)

17

Responses

Latest Responses

8 respondents (47%) answered **Transportation** for this question.



23. Is your organization also a transportation provider?

[More Details](#)

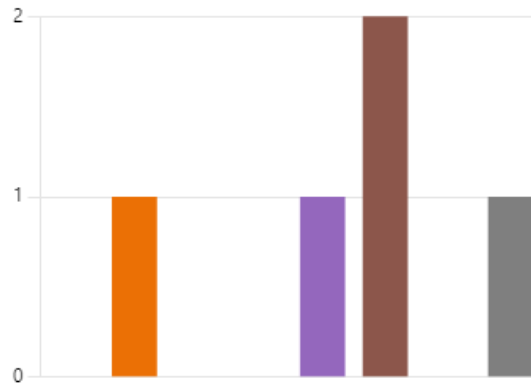
- Yes 2
- No 24



24. What type of transportation provider are you (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

- Private/Commercial provider with... 0
- Taxi Service 1
- Public Transit System 0
- Government Human Service Ag... 0
- Private Non-Profit Human Servi... 1
- Private Non-Profit Transportatio... 2
- Private For-Profit Provider 0
- Other 1

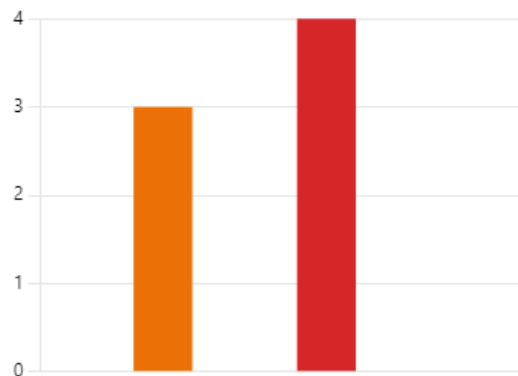


25. **The following questions will ask about the services you provide and efforts at coordinating with area agencies.**

What services do you provide (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

- Fixed Route with Fixed Schedule 0
- Door-to-door 3
- Thru-the-door 0
- Demand response/on-demand 4
- Same-day service 0
- Other 0



26. What type of trips do you provide (medical, general transportation, social)?

[More Details](#)

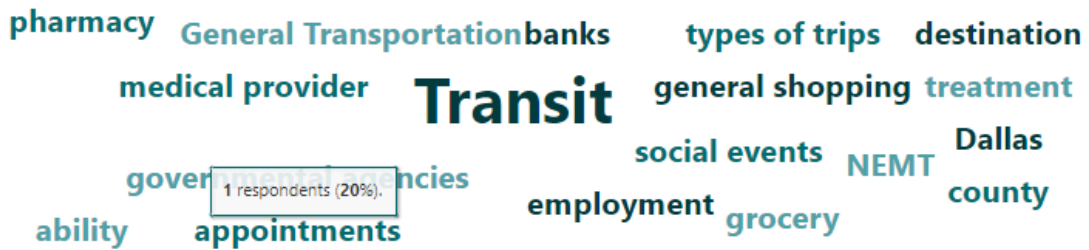
[Insights](#)

5

Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (40%) answered **Transit** for this question.



27. What destinations or areas do you serve most frequently?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

5

Responses

Latest Responses

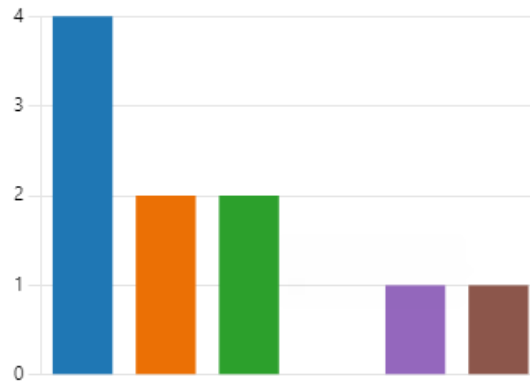
1 respondents (20%) answered **Dallas County** for this question.



28. When is your service available (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

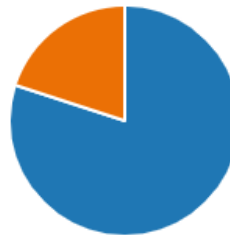
Weekdays	4
Weekends	2
Evenings	2
24/7	0
Holidays	1
Selected Days Only	1



29. Are your transportation services restricted in any way (i.e., medical visits only, job training only, geographic restriction)?

[More Details](#)

Yes	4
No	1



30. Please describe any coordination you have with other organizations regarding transportation services.

[More Details](#)

Insights

5

Responses

Latest Responses

3 respondents (60%) answered **None** for this question.

Growth Transit
transit programs
church groups

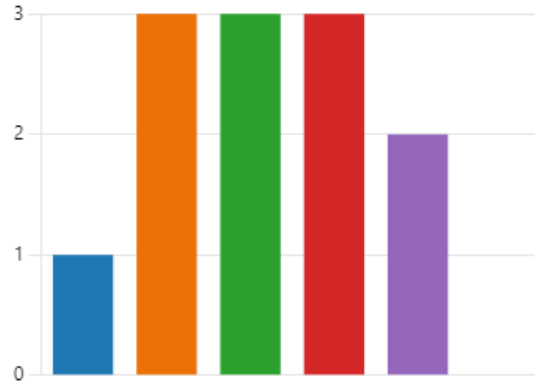
None transit
area of operation transit activities

31. The following question will ask about the individuals that utilize your transportation services.

For what age groups are your transportation services designed (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

Under 18	1
18-54	3
55-65	3
Over 65	3
Any Age	2
Other	0



32. Are your transportation services specifically targeted towards low-income individuals?

[More Details](#)

Yes	1
No	3
Other	1



33. Are your transportation services specifically targeted towards individuals with disabilities?

[More Details](#)

Yes	1
No	4
Other	0



34. Please describe any eligibility requirements users must meet to utilize your transportation services.

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

5

Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (40%) answered **Dallas** for this question.

addiction/recovery
resident Dallas County
Burrell clients **city limits**

35. In what ways are you unable to meet the needs of your users/clients?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

5

Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (40%) answered **volunteer drivers** for this question.

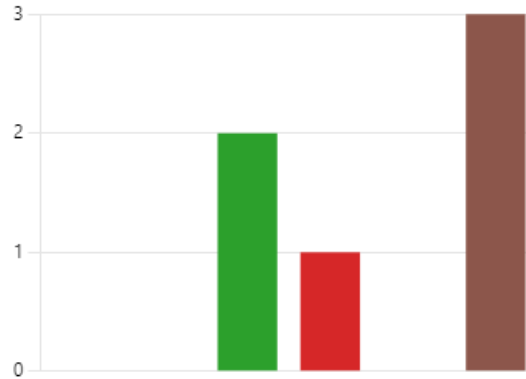
driver's availability
1 respondents (20%).
volunteer drivers **limiting**
wheelchair ramp **clients in need** **city limits**

36. **The following questions will ask about the type and condition of vehicles in your transportation fleet.**

What vehicle types do you own (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

<input type="radio"/> Cars	0
<input type="radio"/> Trucks	0
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Van	2
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Light Duty Buses	1
<input type="radio"/> Medium Duty Buses	0
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other	3



37. **Please indicate how many vehicles of each type your organization owns. (Enter N/A or 0 if not applicable)**

Cars XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

38. Trucks XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

39. Vans XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

40. Light Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

41. Medium Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

42. Other XTR

[More Details](#)

 Insights

5
Responses

Latest Responses

1 respondents (20%) answered 1 for this question. ...

volunteers 1 **personal vehicles**
None

43. **On average, how many miles do each type of vehicle owned by your organization have? (Enter N/A or 0 if not applicable)**

Cars XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

44. Trucks XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

45. Vans XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

46. Light Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

47. Medium Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

48. Other

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

49. **How many people to you have the capacity to transport with each type of vehicle in your fleet?
(Enter N/A or 0 if not applicable)**

Cars XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

50. Trucks XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

51. Vans XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

52. Light Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

53. Medium Duty Buses XTR

[More Details](#)

5
Responses

Latest Responses

54. Other XTR

[More Details](#)

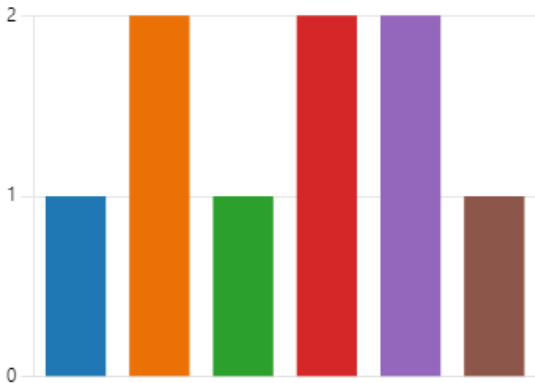
5
Responses

Latest Responses

55. How are your transportation services funded (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

- • Charging Clients 1
- • State Funds 2
- • Federal Funds 1
- • Donations/Fundraising/Volunt... 2
- • City/County/ Special transport... 2
- • Other 1



56. Do you provide services for those unable to pay?

[More Details](#)

- Yes 4
- No 1



57. Please provide your agency's annual transportation revenues.

Fares

[More Details](#)

5

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

58. FTA Grants

[More Details](#)

5

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

59. Other Sources of Revenue (please break down by source)

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

5

Responses

[Latest Responses](#)

1 respondents (20%) answered **Local government** for this question. ...

sourcesMental Health thousandDonations
Department Local government thousandWe
local organizations County Government

60. The following questions will ask about your organization's short-term and long-term

Please list specific planned projects and costs related to your transportation services (i.e. replacement of 2 vans : \$50,000)

[More Details](#)

4
Responses

Latest Responses

61. What do you think the needs of your transportation services are in the short term (1-6 years)? Please be as specific as possible.

[More Details](#)

 Insights

5
Responses

Latest Responses

2 respondents (40%) answered **volunteer drivers** for this question.



62. What do you think the needs of your transportation services are in the long-term (7-15 years)?

[More Details](#)

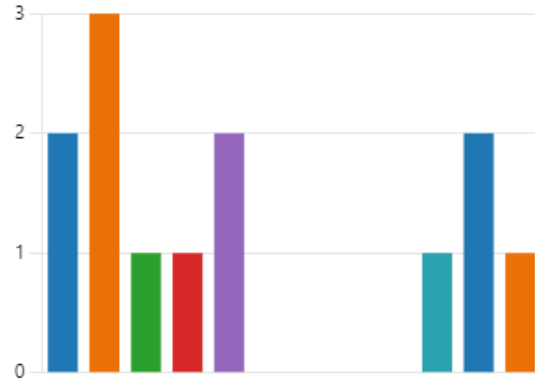
4
Responses

Latest Responses

63. Are you interested in expanding your specialized transportation services (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

● No	2
● Geographic coverage	3
● Evening service	1
● Weekend service	1
● Handicapped-accessible service	2
● Door-to-door	0
● Lower fares	0
● Medical trips	0
● Non-medical trips	0
● Employment trips	1
● Inter-agency coordination	2
● Other	1



64. Is your organization also a human service agency?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	2
● No	3



65. **Contact Information**

First Name:

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

44
Responses

66. Last Name

[More Details](#)

 Insights

44

Responses

67. Phone Number:

[More Details](#)

 Insights

40

Responses

68. Email Address:

[More Details](#)

32

Responses

69. Please provide your 5-digit Zip Code.

[More Details](#)

 Insights


52


Responses

70. Please indicate where you live:

[More Details](#)

 Insights

 Within a City (i.e., Monett, Gree... 34

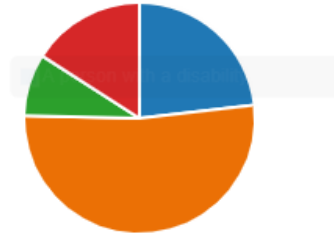
 Not within a City (northern Ston... 17



71. Please check the statements you identify with (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

● A person with a disability	16
● A person over 65	36
● A person at or below the Federa...	6
● None of the above	11



72. What types of disabilities do you have (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

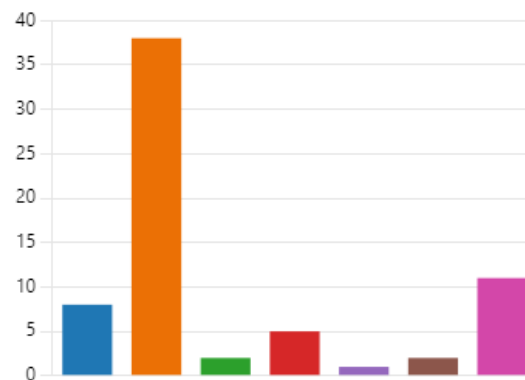
● Physical	27
● Cognitive	2
● Visual	5
● N/A	23
● Other	2



73. Please check all the statements you identify with (Select all that apply)

[More Details](#)

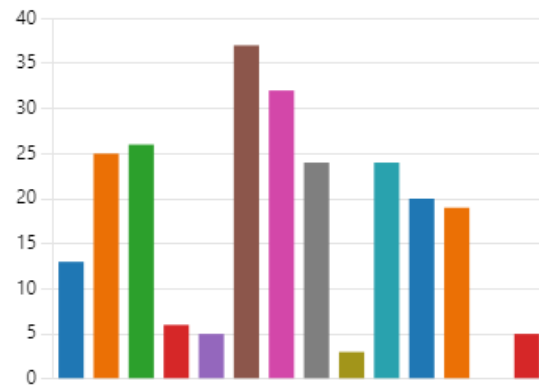
● Full-time Employee	8
● Retired	38
● Student	2
● Part-time Worker	5
● Full-time Volunteer	1
● Part-time Volunteer	2
● Unable to Work	11



74. Where do you go on a regular basis (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

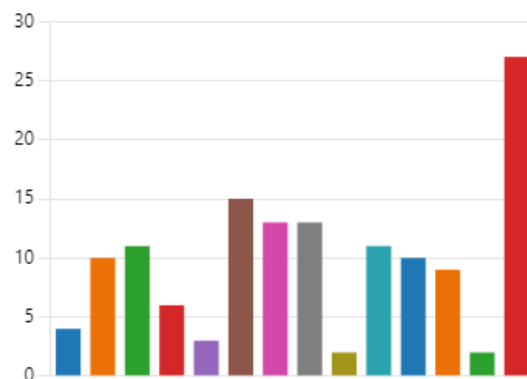
● Work	13
● Senior Center	25
● Restaurants	26
● Food Pantry	6
● School/College	5
● Medical Facilities	37
● Bank or other local businesses	32
● Visiting (family/friends)	24
● Child Care	3
● Shopping Centers	24
● Religious Services	20
● Recreation	19
● I am unable to leave my home o...	0
● Other	5



75. Where do you find it difficult to visit (Select all that apply)?

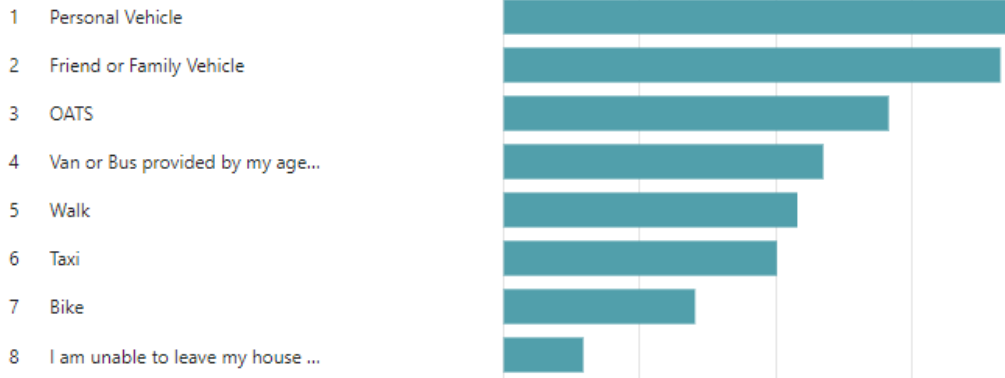
[More Details](#)

● Work	4
● Senior Center	10
● Restaurants	11
● Food Pantry	6
● School/College	3
● Medical Facilities	15
● Bank or other local businesses	13
● Visiting (family/friends)	13
● Child Care	2
● Shopping Centers	11
● Religious Services	10
● Recreation	9
● I am unable to leave my home o...	2
● Other	27



76. Please rank your **top three** most-used modes of transportation.

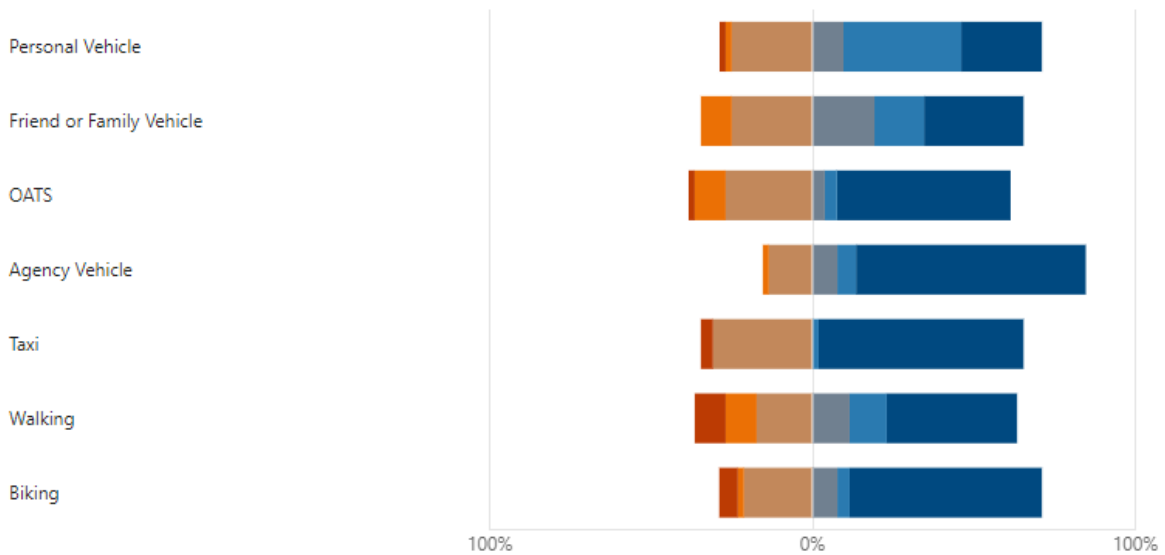
[More Details](#)



77. Please indicate how well your **ranked top three modes of transportation** serve your needs.

[More Details](#)

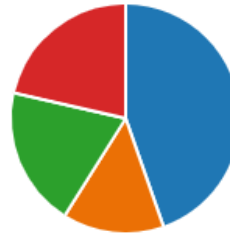
Very Poorly Poorly Neutral Well Very Well Do Not Use



78. How do you pay for your transportation (Select all that apply)?

[More Details](#)

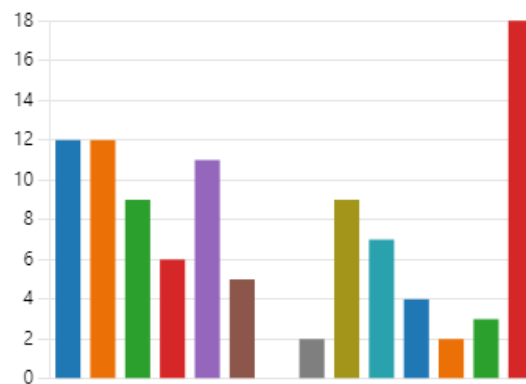
- Earned Income 25
- Government Assistance 8
- Help from Family and Friends 11
- I don't have to pay for transport... 12



79. What can be changed to better meet your transportation needs (select up to three)?

[More Details](#)

- Evening Service 12
- Weekend Service 12
- Door to Door Service 9
- Next/Same Day Service 6
- Affordability 11
- Frequency 5
- Eligibility Requirements 0
- Inter-agency Coordination 2
- Handicapped-accessible Service 9
- Medical Destinations 7
- Shopping Destinations 4
- Employment Destinations 2
- Guaranteed Ride Home Service 3
- Other 18



80. What destinations would you like improved access to?

[More Details](#)

Insights

52

Responses

Latest Responses

"Springfield Senior Center"

"No Response"

"No Response"

19 respondents (37%) answered **No Response** for this question.



81. What other comments would you like to make about transportation choices in the Ozarks?

[More Details](#)

Insights

27

Responses

Latest Responses

"I don't need the service at this time."

7 respondents (26%) answered **None** for this question.



Appendix C: Press Releases

Kick-Off Meeting – Barry County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, from 9 am to 11 am, located at the Cassville City Hall, 300 Main St, Cassville, MO 65625. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

All comments and questions should be directed to Aishwarya Shrestha at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

###

Kick-Off Meeting – Christian County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 14, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Christian County Library – Clever Community Branch, 7428 W. Veterans Blvd., Clever, MO 65631. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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All comments and questions should be directed to Aishwarya Shrestha at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

###

110 Park Central Square • Springfield, MO 65806 • 417-836-6900 • www.smcog.org

Kick-Off Meeting – Dade County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Dade County Emergency Management Agency, 2 N Main St, Greenfield, MO 65661. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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Kick-Off Meeting – Dallas County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Friday, March 3, 2023, from 9 am to 11 am, located at the Dallas County Annex Building, 108 S. Cedar Buffalo, MO 65622. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

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Kick-Off Meeting – Greene County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023, from 9 am to 11 am, located at the Fair Grove City Hall, 81 S Orchard Blvd, Fair Grove, MO 65648. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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Kick-Off Meeting – Lawrence County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Mt. Vernon City Hall, 109 N Hickory St, Mt Vernon, MO 65712. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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Kick-Off Meeting – Polk County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 9 am to 11 am, located at the Bolivar City Hall, 345 S Main Ave, Bolivar, MO 65613. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

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###

Kick-Off Meeting – Stone County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Kimberling City Community Center, 34 Kimberling Blvd, Kimberling City, MO 65686. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

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Kick-Off Meeting – Taney County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 16, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Forsyth City Hall, 15405 US Hwy 160, Forsyth, MO 65653. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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###

Kick-Off Meeting – Webster County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 24, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, March 2, 2023, from 2 pm to 4 pm, located at the Marshfield Senior Center, 427 W Washington St, Marshfield, MO 65706. This meeting is to gather public input on the transportation needs of seniors and individuals who have disabilities or who are impoverished.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

The Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan contains five key elements regarding transportation in the Ozarks. It contains demographic information about the area's population and information about local service providers. The PTHSCP will also have a needs assessment and will identify strategies for addressing those needs. This survey will provide important information for that assessment. Finally, the document will outline an implementation strategy for improving transportation options for the area.

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###

Prioritization Meeting – Barry County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, June 26, at 3:30 p.m. at the Cassville Senior Center located at 1111 Fair Street in Cassville, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

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Prioritization Meeting – Christian County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, June 22, at 3:00 p.m. at the Christian County Library Center Clever Community Branch located at 7428 W. Veterans Blvd, Clever, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Dade County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, June 22, at 12:00 p.m. at the Dade County Senior Center located at 58 N. Allison Street, Greenfield, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Dallas County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, June 12, at 1 p.m. at the Dallas County Annex Building located at 108 S. Cedar Street, Buffalo, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Greene County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Monday, June 12, at 10 a.m. at the Fair Grove Senior Center located at 122 S. Orchard Blvd, Fair Grove, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Lawrence County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 16, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Friday, June 23, at 10 a.m. at Heritage Harmony House located at 700 S Hudson Ave in Aurora, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Polk County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 9, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Thursday, June 15, at 11:30 a.m. at the Polk County Senior Center located at 1850 W. Broadway, Bolivar, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Stone County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 15, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, June 21, at 11:30 a.m. at the Kimberling City Senior Center located at 63 Kimberling Blvd, Kimberling City, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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Prioritization Meeting – Taney County



Serving Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, & Webster Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 8, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday, June 14, at 10 a.m. at the Forsyth Senior Center located at 13879 US Hwy 160, Forsyth, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

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All comments and questions should be directed to Aishwarya Shrestha at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

110 Park Central Square • Springfield, MO 65806 • 417-836-6900 • www.smcog.org

Prioritization Meeting – Webster County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 5, 2023

Aishwarya Shrestha, Associate Planner
417-836-6901

Public Transportation Needs Meeting

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) will be hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, June 13, at 1 p.m. at the Marshfield Senior Center located at 427 W. Washington Street, Marshfield, MO. The purpose of this meeting is to collect public input regarding identified transportation needs and strategies for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. This is the final stage in the updating of the regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP).

Public input from human service agencies, transportation providers, and transportation users was sought via online survey and public meetings over the past two months. SMCOG staff has reviewed the survey results, and other public input provided, and identified regional needs pertaining to public transit. In order to address these needs, staff then developed strategies. SMCOG is now hosting a second round of public meetings to confirm that the identified needs are accurate and assist in prioritizing strategies. The public is invited to attend the meeting and participate in the prioritization.

The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 grant funding. The input of area human service agencies and transportation providers will be combined with the results of a transportation user survey to update the current regional PTHSCP.

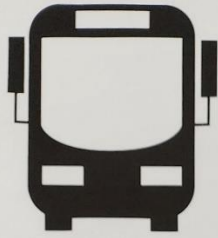
The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

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110 Park Central Square • Springfield, MO 65806 • 417-836-6900 • www.smcog.org

Appendix D: Prioritization Meeting Boards

Barry County



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Barry County

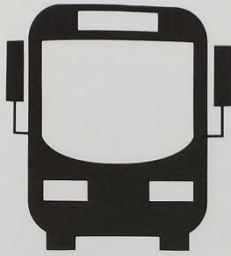
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●
- More funding to support low-income users ●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends
- Access to handicapped-accessible services
- Lower costs for transit
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ● ● ●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Barry County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ● ● ●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ● ● ●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Christian County

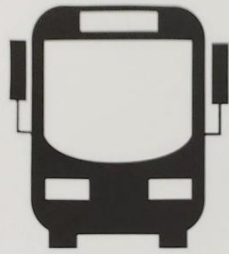
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ● ●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes
- More funding to support low-income users
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●
- Lower costs for transit
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ● ●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries

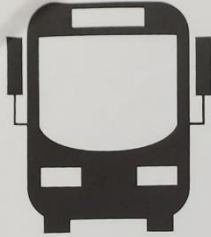


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Christian County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ●●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ●●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ●●●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Dade County

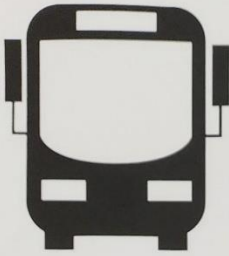
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●●●●●●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●●●●●●●●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●●●
- Lower costs for transit ●●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●●●●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries

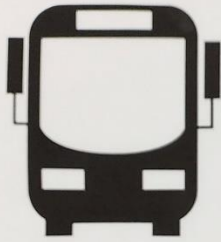


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Dade County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ● ● ●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Dallas County

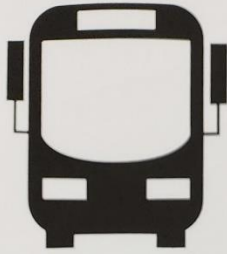
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ● ● ●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends
- Access to handicapped-accessible services
- Lower costs for transit
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●●●

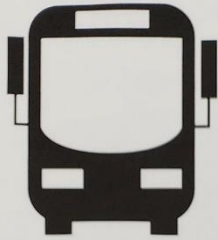


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Dallas County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ●●●●●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ●●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ●●●●●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ●●●●●●●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Greene County

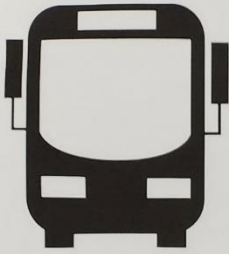
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ●●●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●●
- Lower costs for transit
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●●●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●●●●

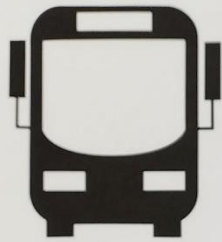


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Greene County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Lawrence County

The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ●●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●●●●●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●●●●●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●●●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●●●
- Lower costs for transit ●●●●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●●●●●●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●●



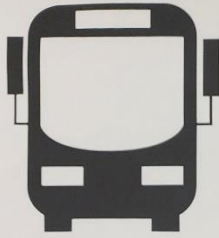


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Lawrence County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOCG region
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Polk County

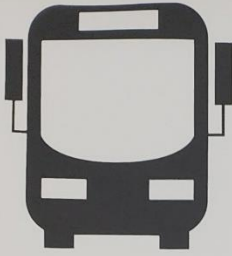
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●●●●●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●●●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●●●●●●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●●●●●●●●●●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●●●●●
- Lower costs for transit ●●●●●●●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●●●●●

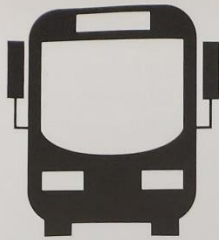


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Polk County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ●●●●●●●●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ●●●●●●●●●●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ●●●●●●●●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ●●●●●●●●●●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Stone County

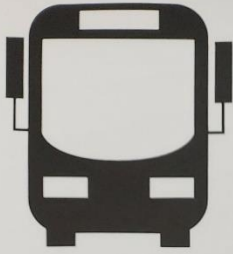
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ● ● ●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ● ●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ● ● ● ● ● ●
- More funding to support low-income users ● ● ●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ● ● ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ● ● ●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ● ●
- Lower costs for transit ● ● ●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ● ● ● ● ●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ● ● ● ● ●

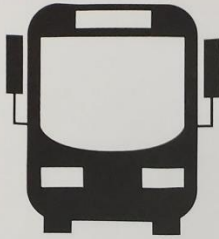


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Stone County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●●●●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ●●●●●●●●●●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ●●●●●●●●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ●●●●●●●●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ●



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Taney County

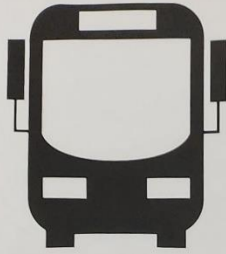
The following needs were identified based on survey responses for human service agencies, transportation providers, and users:

Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ●●●●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers ●
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●●●●
- More funding to support low-income users ●●●●●
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●●●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●
- Lower costs for transit ●●●●●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries ●●

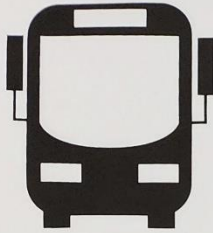


Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Taney County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region
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- Raise awareness of existing transportation services
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Webster County

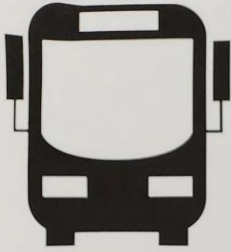
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Human Services/Transportation Provider Needs:

- Additional monetary support for the purchase of new vehicles ●●●
- Assistance with finding additional staff and volunteers
- Support for programs that provide an increased level of flexibility for short-term notice routes ●●●●
- More funding to support low-income users
- Improve collaboration between human service agencies and transportation providers ●

User Needs

- Consistency of route scheduling, and improved access to transit services on evenings and weekends ●●●●
- Access to handicapped-accessible services ●●
- Lower costs for transit ●
- Increased service to medical, entertainment, and shopping destinations ●●●●
- Expand routes that cross county boundaries



Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan Webster County

Strategies

To help address the needs identified, the following strategies and activities are proposed:

- Maintain and expand transportation services in the SMCOG region ●
- Enhance collaboration between counties, transportation providers, and human service agencies to provide seamless regional mobility and flexibility in route scheduling and availability ● ● ● ●
- Raise awareness of existing transportation services ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Support human service agencies and transportation providers in their efforts to recruit additional staff and volunteers ● ●
- Improve affordability of transportation services for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
- Advocate for additional funding to support OATS and other rural transit providers ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Appendix F: Public Notices

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI }
 COUNTY OF BARRY } ss

I, Kyle Troutman, being duly sworn according to law, state that I am the Editor of the Cassville Democrat, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Barry, state of Missouri, which newspaper has been admitted to the Post Office as periodical class matter in the City of Cassville, Missouri, which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bonafide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000, and Section 59.310, Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive issues.

One time only 9-13, 2023
 1st Insertion _____, 2023
 2nd Insertion _____, 2023
 3rd Insertion _____, 2023
 4th Insertion _____, 2023
 5th Insertion _____, 2023


 Kyle Troutman, Editor

Subscribed and sworn to me this 15th day
 of Sept, 2023


 Notary Public

**2023 PUBLIC TRANSIT-
 HUMAN SERVICES
 COORDINATION
 TRANSPORTATION PLAN
 UPDATE**

Notice of Public Comment
 The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area. The preliminary draft

is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smcog.org/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed. The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu. Only insertion 9/13/23 35

DARLENE WIERMAN
 Notary Public - Notary Seal
 Barry County - State of Missouri
 Commission Number 13508581
 My Commission Expires Jul 28, 2025

Publisher's Fee \$ 83.95

**2023 Public
Transit-Human Services
Coordination Transportation
Plan Update
Notice of Public Comment**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

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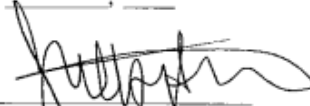
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Missouri, County of Christian,ss:

I, Shelby Atkison being duly sworn according to law, state that I represent the publisher of The Christian County Headliner, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Christian, where located; which has been admitted to the Post Office as periodical matter in the City of Ozark, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050 Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks:

From 9-13, 2023 to 9-13, 2023 both inclusive.

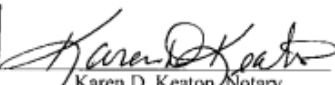
1st insertion, Vol. 62, No. 45, 9-13, 2023
 2nd insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____
 3rd insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____
 4th insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____



 Shelby Atkison

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 day of Sept, 2023

KAREN D. KEATON
 Notary Public - Notary Seal
 STATE OF MISSOURI
 Greene County
 My Commission Expires Mar 23, 2024
 Commission #12414377



 Karen D. Keaton, Notary

My commission expires March 23, 2024.

Filed and Recorded this _____ day of _____, 20____

(Publication Fee, \$ 144.84)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI }
County of Dade } ss.

Lewis County Press, LLC, publishers of *The Vedette*, a newspaper of general circulation regularly and consecutively published in Greenfield, Dade County, Missouri, for a period of three years or more, which has been admitted to the post office in Greenfield, Missouri, as a periodical mail matter; that said newspaper has a list of bona fide subscribers to said newspaper for a definite period of time; that the notice here to attached has been published once a week for 1 weeks, and on the same day of each week, and that the said notice was published in said newspaper in compliance with the provisions of section 493.050 Revised Statutes of Missouri of 2000.

That said notice was published in said newspaper from

September 14, 2023 to September 14, 2023

First insertion September 14, 2023

Second insertion _____, 20 ____

Third insertion _____, 20 ____

Fourth insertion _____, 20 ____

Shelli Palmer
Signature

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5 day of October, 2023

My commission expires 7.10.25

Notary Public Signature [Signature]

Printer's Fee _____



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Missouri, County of Dallas, ss:

I, Hailyn Smith, being duly sworn according to law, state that I represent the publisher of the Buffalo Reflex, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Dallas, where located; which has been admitted to the Post Office as periodical matter in the City of Buffalo, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050 Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks:

From 09/13/2023 to 09/13/2023 both inclusive.

- 1st insertion, Vol. 154, No. 7, 09/13/2023
- 2nd insertion, Vol. , No. ,
- 3rd insertion, Vol. , No. ,
- 4th insertion, Vol. , No. ,

Karpe

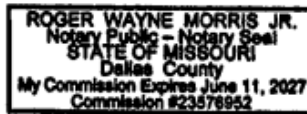
Subscribed to and sworn to before me this 09/13/2023

Roger Wayne Morris Jr.
Notary

My commission expires 6/11/2027

Filed and Recorded _____

(Publication Fee, \$63.92)



2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update Notice of Public Comment

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smcog.org/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.



Missouri
GANNETT

PO Box 631339 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1339

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

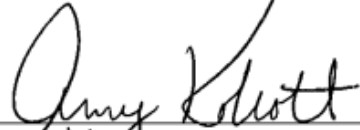
DEFAULT
Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
110 Park Central SQ
Springfield MO 65806-1314

STATE OF WISCONSIN, COUNTY OF BROWN

I do upon my oath state that I am the Legal Clerk of the Springfield News-Leader/Guidon, and that I am duly authorized to and do make this affidavit for and on behalf of the News-Leader, a newspaper published daily in the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri; that the public advertisement, notice or order of Publication, a true copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper in the issues dated:

09/14/2023

Sworn to and subscribed before on 09/14/2023



Legal Clerk



Notary, State of WI, County of Brown
8.25.26

My commission expires
Publication Cost: \$201.15
Order No: 9272103 # of Copies: 1
Customer No: 1010313
PO #:

THIS IS NOT AN INVOICE!
Please do not use this form for payment remittance.

MARIAH VERHAGEN
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update Notice of Public Comment

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Toney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smco.org/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Toney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Ashwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6961 or by email at ashwaryashrestha@MissouriState.edu.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Missouri, County of Polk, ss:

I, Amanda Orrell, being duly sworn according to law, state that I represent the publisher of the Bolivar Herald-Free Press, a semi-weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Polk, where located; which has been admitted to the Post Office as periodical matter in the City of Bolivar, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050 Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks:

From 09/13/2023 to 09/13/2023 both inclusive.

1st insertion, Vol. 151, No. 65, 09/13/2023

2nd insertion, Vol. , No. ,

3rd insertion, Vol. , No. ,

4th insertion, Vol. , No. ,

Amanda Orrell

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this 09/13/2023

MELISSA BURKS
Notary Public - Notary Seal
STATE OF MISSOURI
Polk County
My Commission Expires Mar. 16, 2024
Commission #16939822

Melissa Burks
Notary

My commission expires March 16, 2024

Filed and Recorded: _____

(Publication Fee, \$97.20)

**2023 PUBLIC TRANSIT-
HUMAN SERVICES
COORDINATION
TRANSPORTATION
PLAN UPDATE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
COMMENT**

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smco.org/g/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of south-

west Missouri. SMOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update Notice of Public Comment

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MISSOURI, }
COUNTY OF STONE, } ss.

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area. The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smcog.org/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed. The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

I, Sara Etchison, being duly sworn, according to law, state that I am the legal clerk of The Stone County Republican/Crane Chronicle, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Stone, which has been admitted to the post office as periodical matter in the city of Crane, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of over three years and, in fact over one hundred thirty years, and has a list of bona fide subscribers, voluntarily engaged as such, who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price of a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 13.775, Laws of Missouri, 1937, Pages 431 and 432, enacted by the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly of the State of Missouri, the affixed notices appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks (issues).

From 09/14/2023 to 09/14/2023, both inclusive.

First Insertion 09/14/2023

Second Insertion

Third Insertion

Fourth Insertion

Fifth Insertion

SIGNED S. Etchison
SARA ETCHISON, Legal Clerk

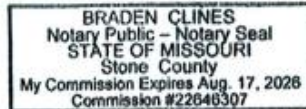
THE CRANE CHRONICLE/STONE COUNTY REPUBLICAN

Braden Clines

NOTARY PUBLIC

Subscribed and sworn to before me this date: 09/14/2023

Printer's Fee: \$72.74



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MISSOURI)

ss

COUNTY OF TANEY)

I, Mandy Farrow, being duly sworn according to law, state that I am the Publisher of the Branson Tri-Lakes News, a newspaper published twice a week of general circulation in the Counties of Taney and Stone, State of Missouri, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers, voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050, Revised Statutes of Missouri 2000, and Section 59.310 Revised Statutes of Missouri 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper in the following consecutive times:

1st Insertion Vol. 112 No. 73 13th day of September 2023

M Farrow

Mandy Farrow
Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 13th day of
September 2023

Notary Public
Jennifer Young



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT
2023 Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Transportation Plan Update

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify

Legals

projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smcog.org/program-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

873/1t

2023 Public
Transit-Human Services
Coordination Transportation
Plan Update
Notice of Public Comment

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) contracted with the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) to prepare a five-year update to the regional Public Transit-Human Services Coordinated Transportation Plan. The regional Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan (PTHSCP) presents an evaluation of public transportation needs of senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals while identifying and prioritizing strategies for addressing these needs. The PTHSCP will help to identify projects and organizations eligible for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant funding. This plan covers the ten county SMCOG region of Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney and Webster counties, but excludes the Ozarks Transportation Organization boundaries in the Springfield metro area.

The preliminary draft is available for review and comment online at <https://www.smco.org/g/programs-transportation> until Friday, October 13, 2023. The public is strongly encouraged to comment on the plan and ensure that the transportation needs of senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes are identified and addressed.

The Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG) is a Regional Planning Commission and an association of local governments in the ten-county area of southwest Missouri. SMCOG serves Barry, Christian, Dade, Dallas, Greene, Lawrence, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Webster counties. SMCOG is one of 19 active regional planning organizations throughout Missouri.

If you would like to view a printed copy or have comments on the plan, please contact Aishwarya Shrestha, Transportation Planner, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments at (417) 836-6901 or by email at AishwaryaShrestha@MissouriState.edu.

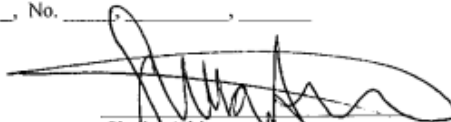
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Missouri, County of Webster,ss:

I, Shelby Atkison being duly sworn according to law, state that I represent the publisher of The Marshfield Mail, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the County of Webster, where located; which has been admitted to the Post Office as periodical matter in the City of Marshfield, the city of publication; which newspaper has been published regularly and consecutively for a period of three years and has a list of bona fide subscribers voluntarily engaged as such who have paid or agreed to pay a stated price for a subscription for a definite period of time, and that such newspaper has complied with the provisions of Section 493.050 Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2000. The affixed notice appeared in said newspaper on the following consecutive weeks:

From 9-13, 2023 to 9-13, 2023 both inclusive.

1st insertion, Vol. 132, No. 24, 9-13, 2023
2nd insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____
3rd insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____
4th insertion, Vol. _____, No. _____, _____



Shelby Atkison

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 day of Sept, 2023



My commission expires March 23, 2024.



Karen D. Keaton, Notary

Filed and Recorded this _____ day of _____, 20____

(Publication Fee, \$ 144.84)

Appendix F: Human Service Agencies and Transportation Service Providers Contact List

Name	Street Address	City, State, ZIP	Phone	County
Roaring River Health and Rehab	812 Old Exeter Rd	Cassville, MO 65625	417-847-2184	Barry
Cedar Ridge Care Center	71 Sycamore St	Cassville, MO 65625	417-847-5546	Barry
Polk County Health Senior Center	1850 W 1850 W Broadway St	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-326-2140	Barry
Cassville Healthcare and Rehabilitation	1300 County Farm Rd	Cassville, MO 65625	417-847-3386	Barry
Arc of the Ozarks	1010 Old Airport Rd	Monett, MO 65708	417-354-0071	Barry/Lawrence
Community Care Center, Inc.	1300 County Farm Rd	Cassville, MO 65625	417-847-3386	Barry/Lawrence
Clark Community Mental Health Center	1701 North Central Avenue	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-6610	Barry/Lawrence
Countryside Care Center	385 South Eisenhower Street	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-4040	Barry/Lawrence
Lacoba Nursing Home Inc	850 E US Highway 60	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-7895	Barry/Lawrence
Monett Area Extended Employment	204 S Central, PO Box 474	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-3191	Barry/Lawrence
Monett Area Sheltered Workshop	204 S Central Ave	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-3191	Barry/Lawrence
Barry-Lawrence County Development Center	408 3rd St	Monett, MO 65708	417-235-6731	Barry/Lawrence
Community Springs Healthcare	400 E Hospital Rd	El Dorado Springs, MO 64744	417-876-2531	Cedar
Alliance Bus Company	1083 Kathryn St	Nixa, MO 65714	417-724-8804	Christian
Bridges Medical Service	256 State Hwy Y	Forsyth, MO 65653	417-634-4203	Christian
Christian County Enterprises	825 Enterprise Lane	Nixa, MO 65714	417-725-5310	Christian
Developmental Care Center of the Ozarks	1545 E Pythian St	Springfield, MO 65802	417-829-0800	Christian
Masters Transportation	171 Shady Oaks Dr	Ozark, MO 65721	800-783-3613	Christian
TWG Transportation	5034 N 17th St	Ozark, MO 65721	417-485-3226	Christian
Dade County Nursing Home & Residential Care Center	400 Broad St	Greenfield, MO 65661	417-637-5315	Dade

Good Shepherd Nursing Home	200 W 12th St	Lockwood, MO 65682	417-232-4571	Dade
OACAC Neighborhood Center	803 S Main St	Lockwood, MO 65682	417- 232-8020	Dade
Bristol Manor of Buffalo	1002 S Birch St	Buffalo, MO 65622	417-345-5500	Dallas
Buffalo Praire Care Center	631 W Main St	Buffalo, MO 65622	417-345-5422	Dallas
Questover	211 N Main St	Urbana, MO 65767	417-993-9949	Dallas
Urbana Rest Home	310 Walnut St	Urbana, MO 65767	417-993-4638	Dallas
New Growth Transit	112 W 4 th Street	Appleton City, MO 64735	417-282-5936	Dallas
Ozarks Counseling Center	614 South Avenue	Springfield, MO 65806	417-777-4057	Greene
Adult Tendercare Center	3729 N Glenstone Ave	Springfield, MO 65803	417-866-1559	Greene
NAMI Hope Center	819 N Boonville Ave	Springfield, MO 65802	417-864-7119	Greene
Alternative Opportunities	2626 W College Rd	Springfield, MO 65802	417-862-1753	Greene
Burrell Center - Transitions	323 E Grand St	Springfield, MO	417-761-5600	Greene
City Utility Transit Services	1505 Boonville Ave	Springfield, MO	417-831-8368	Greene
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	330 N Jefferson Ave	Springfield, MO	417-888-2020	Greene
Council of Churches of the Ozarks	PO Box 3947	Springfield, MO	417-862-3586	Greene
Cox Senior Advantage	1000 E Walnut Lawn St	Springfield, MO	417-269-3616	Greene
Daybreak Adultcare and Eldercare Transit	1461 E Seminole St	Springfield, MO	417-882-4243	Greene
SeniorAge Southside Senior Center	2215 S Freemont Ave	Springfield, MO	417-890-1313	Greene
Greene Valley State School	1601 E Pythian St	Springfield, MO	417-895-6848	Greene
J. Howard Fisk Limousines LTD	2001 E Trafficway St	Springfield, MO 65802	417-862-2900	Greene
Lakeland Regional Hospital	440 S Market Ave	Springfield, MO	417-221-4854	Greene
Maranatha Village, Inc.	233 E Norton Rd	Springfield, MO	417-833-0016	Greene
Missouri Council of the Blind	5453 Chippewa St	St Louis, MO 63109	314-832-7172	Greene
Missouri State University Speech	901 S National Ave	Springfield, MO	417-836-5275	Greene

Language and Hearing Center				
MoDOT District 8	3025 E Kearney St	Springfield, MO 65803	417-895-7727	Greene
Muscular Dystrophy Association	425 S Union Ave	Springfield, MO	314-962-0023	Greene
National Federation for the Blind	2215 N Travis Ave	Springfield, MO	417-864-4039	Greene
North View Senior Center	305 N Talmage St	Springfield, MO	417-837-5808	Greene
Nova Center of the Ozarks	1340 E Woodhurst Dr	Springfield, MO 65804	417-889-3121	Greene
OATS Transportation Services	2909 N Martin Ave	Springfield, MO 65803	417-887-9272	Greene
Ozarks Dialysis Services North	330 E Division St	Springfield, MO 65803	417-269-3087	Greene
Ozarks Dialysis Services South	3525 South National Ave	Suite 102 Springfield, MO 65807	417-269-3005	Greene
Rehabilitation Services for the Blind	149 Park Central Square	Room 640 Springfield, MO	417-895-6386	Greene
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (New)	1710 E Chestnut Expy	Springfield, MO	417-831-9696	Greene
Empower: Abilities (formerly SCIL)	1450 W Cambridge St	Springfield, MO 65807	417-886-1189	Greene
Southwest Missouri Office on Aging	1735 S Fort Ave	Springfield, MO	417-862-0762	Greene
Springfield Workshop	2835 W Bennett St	Springfield, MO	417-866-2339	Greene
Workforce Development Board	2900 E Sunshine St	Springfield, MO 65806	417-887-4343	Greene
Workforce Development Board	1143 N Robberson Ave	Springfield, MO 65802	417-874-2730	Greene
Greene County Senior Citizens' Services Fund	940 N Boonville Avenue Room 210	Springfield, MO 65802	417-829-6060	Greene
Arc of the Ozarks	1501 East Pythian St	Springfield, MO 65802	417-354-0071	Greene
Innovative Industries Inc	421 W Centennial Ave	Carthage, MO 64836	417-358-6891	Jasper
Aurora Nursing Center	1700 S Hudson Ave	Aurora, MO 65605	417-678-2165	Lawrence
First Sooter	206 W North St	Mount Vernon, MO 65712	417-466-2220	Lawrence
Bristol Manor of Aurora	740 S Hudson Ave	Aurora, MO 65605	417-678-7535	Lawrence

Center for Psychological Health and Wellbeing	308 W Church St	Aurora, MO 65605	417-678-5532	Lawrence
City of Mt. Vernon	PO Box 71	Mt Vernon, MO 65712		Lawrence
Clark Community Mental Health Center	509 S Jefferson Ave	Aurora, MO 65605	417-476-1000	Lawrence
Hudson House	1700-B S Hudson Ave	Aurora, MO 65605	417-678-2169	Lawrence
Lawrence County Council on Aging	700 South Hudson Ave	Aurora, MO 65605	417-678-4736	Lawrence
Lawrence County Manor	915 Carl Allen St	Mt Vernon, MO 65712	417-466-2183	Lawrence
Missouri Veterans Home	1600 S Hickory St	Mt Vernon, MO 65712	417-466-7103	Lawrence
Mount Vernon Place Care Center, Inc	1425B S Landrum St	Mount Vernon, MO 65712	417-466-3549	Lawrence
Ozarks Methodist Manor	205 S College Rd	Marionville, MO 65705	417-258-2573	Lawrence
Ozark Tri-County Healthcare	475 Nelson Ave	Neosho, Missouri 64850	417-451-9450	Newton
Blue Castle of the Ozarks	8130 E Lavern St	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-777-2583	Polk
Easy Living Inc.	4736 S 131st Rd	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-777-3642	Polk
Big Spring Care Center	202 E Mill St	Humansville, MO 65674	417-754-8711	Polk
Blue Castle of the Ozarks	1830 E Laverne St	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-777-2583	Polk
Bolivar Taxi (B&B Taxi?)	1605 E Broadway St	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-326-8294	Polk
Citizens Memorial Health Transit Services	112 N Missouri Ave	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-777-5165	Polk
Citizens Memorial Healthcare	1500 N Oakland Ave	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-328-6010	Polk
Jefferson Bus Lines	116 N Springfield Ave	Bolivar, MO 65613	858-800-8898	Polk
Lakeshore Residential Care Center	102 S Bolivar Rd, PO Box 221	Humansville, MO 65674	417- 754-2272	Polk
Northwood Hills Care Center	800 North Arthur St	Humansville, MO 65674	417-754-2208	Polk
Roadrunner Cab	2836 W Broadway St	Bolivar, MO 65613	417-327-6104	Polk
Crane Residential Care Home	102 E Lillian Ave	Crane, MO 65633	417-723-5900	Stone
Kimberling Area Senior Center	63 Kimberling Hills Blvd	Kimberling City, MO 65686	417-739-5242	Stone

Wedgewood Gardens	17996 State Hwy 13	Reeds Spring, MO 65737	417-272-6666	Stone
Christian Associates	13192 St Hwy 13	Kimberling City, MO 65686	417-739-3200	Stone
Tri-Lakes Community Health Center	11863 St Hwy 13	Kimberling City, MO 65686	417-739-1995	Stone
Cox Family Health	2 Kimberling Blvd	Kimberling City, MO 65686	417-348-8910	Stone
Branson Motor Coach Specialists, Inc	2652 Shepherd of the Hills Expy	Branson, MO 65616	417-336-5935	Taney
Ryde with Us	190 Deer Mountain Rd	Walnut Shade, MO 65771	417-527-6789	Taney
CoxHealth Center Branson West	18452 MO-13	Branson West, MO 65737	417-272-8911	Taney
Branson Yellow Cab	155 Industrial Park Dr	Hollister, MO 65672	417-332-2227	Taney
Bridges Medical Service	256 State Hwy Y	Forsyth, MO 65653	417-546-4200	Taney
Culpepper Place Senior Living at Branson Meadows	5351 Gretina Rd	Branson, MO 65616	417-334-3336	Taney
DCO Adult Day Care	1627 E State Hwy 76	Branson, MO 65616	417-334-1797	Taney
Forsyth Care Center	477 Coy Blvd PO Box 640	Forsyth, MO 65653	417-546-6337	Taney
Shepherd of the Hills Living	996 W State Hwy 248	Branson, MO 65616	417-334-6431	Taney
Grayline/Branson Shuttle	155 Industrial Park Dr	Hollister, MO 65672	417-335-4466	Taney
Jefferson Bus Lines	2909 US-65	Hollister, MO 65672	417-334-2520	Taney
Lakeside Mountain Manor	238 Harmony Heights	Forsyth, MO 65653	417-546-5595	Taney
Branson Travel Office	118 N Commercial St	Branson, MO 65616	800-504-0115	Taney
Point Lookout Nursing & Rehab	11103 Historic Hwy 165	Hollister, MO 65672	417-334-4105	Taney
Skaggs Community Health Center	PO Box 650	Branson, MO 65615	417-335-7000	Taney
Tantone Industries Inc	1629 E State Hwy 76	Branson, MO 65616	417-334-7447	Taney
Workforce Development Board	2720 Shepherd of the Hills Expwy #B	Branson, MO 65616	417-334-4156	Taney
Ryde with Us	1764 Buena Vista Rd	Branson, MO 65616	417-336-2625	Taney

A Sporting Chance	PO Box 11337	Springfield, MO 65808-1337	417-874-1958	Webster
City of Marshfield	798 S Marshall St	Marshfield, MO 65706	417-468-2310	Webster
Fordland Clinic	1059 Barton Dr	Fordland, MO 65652	417-767-2273	Webster
Glenwood Healthcare	851 West Thoroughfare St	Seymour, MO 65746	417-935-2992	Webster
Marshfield Care Center	800 S White Oak Rd	Marshfield, MO 65706	417-859-3701	Webster
WebCo	PO Box 486	Marshfield, MO 65706	417-468-5890	Webster
W&W Superior, Reliable Transportation LLC	140 York Drive	Marshfield, MO 65706	417-429-7215	Webster